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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-231
Friday
3 December 1993

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-231

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GATT's Sutherland on Progress in Trade Talks

OW0212051393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0451 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Geneva, Dec. 1 KYODO—World trade chief Peter Sutherland expressed cautious optimism Wednesday [1 December] that global trade talks will be brought to a conclusion by the December 15 deadline despite some outstanding obstacles.

In an exclusive interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Sutherland, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), also called for further efforts by Japan to help seal agreement in the Uruguay Round of trade talks.

"The agreement is certainly attainable," Sutherland said at the GATT headquarters in Geneva. "The number of outstanding issues that have the capacity of derailing the agreement is comparatively limited."

But he added that "the great urgency is needed from the major trading countries if we are to bring the round to the conclusion and there still remain serious risks."

If the round fails, he warned, the world would have to pay "a historical price." The United States, the European Community (EC) and Japan, in particular, would have to make political decisions, he said.

With only two weeks to go, the GATT-sponsored negotiations, the most ambitious ever attempt to liberalize trade, are still hampered by stubborn bickering over farm trade and other contentious issues, according to trade sources.

The end of the round, which began in 1986, is long overdue, having missed the original December 1990 deadline and a series of subsequent target dates for completion.

Sutherland hailed Japan's initiatives on such issues as tariff cuts on manufactured goods, but urged Tokyo to compromise more on its much-criticized ban on rice imports.

He said Japan "has in some respects been providing positive leadership." But he said Japan has to help resolve the issue of compulsory tariffication of rice, adding with a laugh that it is an issue "that I swear I will never talk about again, ever, after the 15th of December" and "the subject that goes into my grave."

Asked about other countries, he said, "They better find solutions, because the compulsory tariffication is an issue that will not go away."

Events in the coming days will show whether Japan wishes to participate in the leadership of a new world order, he said.

Sutherland's remarks apparently reflected his awareness of fierce criticism from India and other developing nations over a reported deal between Tokyo and Washington over Japan's conditional acceptance of a tariffication proposal, trade sources said.

News reports say that Japan has agreed to consider replacing its longstanding ban on rice imports with tariffs after a six-year moratorium, an about-face from its earlier stance to defend the policy for self-sufficiency in the nation's staple food.

The critics argue that the bilateral accord gives Japan exceptionally favorable treatment.

Asked about crucial EC-U.S. talks to bridge their differences over farm subsidies and several other issues, Sutherland said, "I do not anticipate even the most optimistic person believes that everything in the round is going to be solved in just one day." The most probable outcome of the talks was "a limited success, or a limited failure, or a total failure," he said.

He also said a revised draft agreement on the Uruguay Round to be unveiled shortly will have "very, very little" in the way of revisions from earlier documents.

Japan

Reportage on Rice Market Issue Continues

Imported Rice Sale Announced

OW0312040393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0353 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Imported rice for table use will go on sale in early February, Farm Minister Eijiro Hata said Friday [3 December]. He said 14,000 tons of U.S. rice, out of a total 200,000 tons to be imported from various nations for processed food for the new year's holiday season, will be reserved for sale for table use.

Hata also said the government is negotiating with the United States, Thailand, China, Australia and other countries on its plans to import an additional 900,000 tons of rice before the end of fiscal 1993 next March 31. The additional imports will be mostly for table use.

The government's rice price council is scheduled to meet in mid-January to set the selling price for imported rice.

Hata also indicated that the government is ready to import more than one million tons of rice in fiscal 1994 on top of the 1.1 million tons it is importing in the current year.

'Sources': Rice Only Exception

OW0312135093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1337 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Rice will be the only exception for comprehensive tariffication of traded farm goods if the Uruguay Round of world trade talks successfully end by the December 15 deadline, Japanese negotiation sources said Friday [3 December].

According to the sources, only farm products in which imports account for less than 3 percent of domestic consumption will be exempted from the comprehensive tariffication scheme proposed in the global trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The sources said a draft farm trade pact proposing the scheme may be presented to negotiating countries Tuesday. In addition to the requirement on extremely limited imports, domestic production must also be restricted with no export subsidies given by the government.

Among farm products that are restricted from import into Japan, only rice meets such a condition for exemption. Japan in principle bans rice imports, but 10,000 tons of rice is imported annually for making "awamori" sake in Okinawa, or about 0.1 percent of the total domestic annual consumption.

The pact will provide for a six-year moratorium for converting import restrictions on such farm products into tariffs, but will require a minimum access of 4 to 8 percent of domestic consumption for imports.

This would mean Japan would have to accept tariffication for dairy products, starch, wheat and other products, but not for rice.

Kumagai on 'Political Decision'

OW0312043493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0417 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japan must make a political decision on its rice import ban so as to settle world trade talks now that the United States and the European Community (EC) have narrowed differences in their farm trade dispute, Japan's trade minister said Friday [3 December]. International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai told a news conference the time had come for Japan to "get over quite large hurdles" and that it could no longer delay.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata told a separate news conference, however, that Japan will closely watch moves by the U.S. and the EC before making a decision on the rice issue, one of the stumbling blocks in the 7-year-old Uruguay Round of global trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Regarding the two days of talks that ended Thursday in Brussels between U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor and EC External Economic Relations Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan, both ministers expressed the belief that the two trading partners have made considerable progress in resolving their dispute on agricultural subsidies in the face of the December 15 deadline for completing a GATT agreement.

"I have an impression that the Round is coming to a real end," Kumagai said, "The talks are beginning to head rapidly toward a finale."

Agriculture Minister Eijiro Hata, meanwhile, indicated that GATT may announce a compromise plan early next week for resolving pending issues in the talks, including Japan's ban on rice imports. There is speculation that Japan will shortly announce that it will conditionally accept a plan for tariffication of rice imports.

Takemura: Coalition Remains Opposed

OW0312144193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1431 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura suggested Friday [3 December] that the partial opening of Japan's rice market does not contradict a seven-party coalition accord that opposes a comprehensive tariffication formula. Takemura, speaking at a House of Representatives Budget Committee session, said the coalition accord does not mention the issue of minimum access to the country's rice market.

Sadao Yamahana, minister in charge of political reform and former chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), told the same session that while the accord does not clearly mention refusal of the minimum access formula it includes it in the wider sense. Many SDP legislators are opposed to opening of the rice market.

Shortly before launching the coalition government led by Prime Minister Hosokawa in early August, the seven ruling parties arranged a set of policy agreements which include opposition to the liberalization of Japan's rice market.

Japan has reportedly recently struck a behind-the-scenes deal with the United States allowing a six-year grace period for the replacement of the country's rice import ban by tariffs. During the moratorium period, Japan will import rice at a minimum rate of 4 to 8 percent of the nearly 10 million ton annual domestic rice consumption, government sources say.

Japan will make a formal announcement on the partial rice import liberalization around December 10, the sources said.

No Agreement From Talks on U.S. Night Flights

OW0312145293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1435 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—The government failed to reach agreement in talks Friday [3 December] with residents living near a U.S. Air Force base in western Tokyo who have filed a suit demanding a halt to noisy night flights, lawyers for both sides said.

The two sides met to reach an accord on a compromise plan, as proposed by a Tokyo High Court judge, that would require the government to request the U.S. halt night flights at Yokota Air Base between 10 P.M. and 7 A.M. and on all Sundays and national holidays.

But the government refused to agree to the terms, saying it could not further restrict activities of U.S. Forces, according to lawyers.

The residents said they will continue negotiations to reach a concession. The next talks are scheduled for January 12.

On November 18, Japan and the United States agreed on a plan to ban flight landings and takeoffs between 10 P.M. and 6 A.M., except in emergencies.

Still at issue is the additional hour in the morning and the ban on flights on holidays, including Sundays.

About 600 people living near the Yokota Base are demanding the ban on night flights and are seeking compensation.

Presiding Judge Kiyoshi Uetani on November 8 proposed the alternative plan, which includes redress by the government for residents subjected to high levels of noise. Plaintiffs have said they would accept his proposal

In February, the Supreme Court rejected demands in two previous suits by residents near the base who sought a ban on night flights, saying the base is used by U.S. Forces in accordance with the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

Hata Comments on Resuming Talks With DPRK

SK0212022593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0213 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—Japanese Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said Wednesday that Japan will resume its talks with North Korea at any time, if Pyongyang is willing. "Isolating North Korea is a most dangerous thing," he told the Diet Budget Committee.

His remarks confirmed the government's policy that solving the North Korean nuclear problem is not precondition for resumption of talks with Pyongyang.

Talks between Tokyo and Pyongyang on the normalization of diplomatic relations were suspended in November last year when North Korea walked out because Japan brought up the issue of Yi Un-hye, a Japanese woman who was allegedly kidnapped by North Korea.

Meanwhile, about China's military buildup, he said that the government is worried over the increase in the number of military aircraft and military expansion in China. "China should tell us about that frankly as a friendly nation of Japan," he said.

Comfort Women Solution 'Difficult' This Year

OW3011142993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1420 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—Measures in lieu of compensation for Asian women who were forced to provide sexual services for Japanese soldiers before and during World War II will be difficult to arrange within the year, a top government official said Tuesday [30 November].

The official indicated that there is no choice but to carry the issue over to next year, saying it is difficult for the government to draw up measures for the women by the end of the year.

The government of then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said in August that the matter required further consideration.

That month the government officially acknowledged for the first time that the Japanese Imperial Army forcibly held Korean women in sexual servitude for its soldiers before and during World War II.

The government also offered apologies to the former comfort women and vowed to continue investigating the issue.

Some historians say Japan sent to battle front brothels an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 women, mostly from the Korean peninsula.

Ex-Im Bank Decides To Finance Russian Deal

OW0212133493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1133 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—The Export-Import [Ex-Im] Bank of Japan has decided to finance a 30 million yen export by Ajinomoto Co. to Russia ingredients for the manufacture of amino acid for medical use, Ajinomoto officials said Thursday [2 December].

The nation's top food processing firm said the export is the first project to be financed by the government-run bank under a 100 million dollar emergency aid package pledged to Russia.

Under the project, Ajinomoto will export 150 million yen worth of raw materials for making amino acid to a Russian medical and pharmaceutical corporation by the end of 1994, the officials said.

The Export-Import Bank will finance the first consignment worth about 30 million yen to be shipped in January.

The Japanese bank will provide necessary funds to Russia's bank for foreign trade for payment to Ajinomoto.

The loan, repayable in three years after a two-year grace period, will carry an annual interest rate of 0.2 percent below the current long-term prime lending rate, the officials said. The prime rate now stands at 3.8 percent and is expected to be reduced to 3.5 percent on December 10.

The deal was signed between the Russian corporation and Iskra Ind. Co., a trading house specializing in trade with Russia, they said.

Office Supplies Provided for Russian Election

OW0212124993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—Japan has provided office supplies to Moscow and the Russian far east to assist in Russia's parliamentary elections scheduled for December 12, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday [2 December].

Japan provided the supplies, which include copying machines, fax machines and televisions, to election administration committees in Moscow, Khabarovsk, Vladivostok and Sakhalin, following a request from the Russian Government, the ministry said.

Other items include answering machines, cordless phones, and video and cassette recorders.

The equipment supplied to Moscow is worth 32,000 dollars and that to the Russian far east 24,000 dollars, it said.

At the request of the Russian Government, Japan has already decided to send a group of monitors to Russia for the election.

A 15-member group, which includes Diet members, will go to Moscow and a six-member team to Khabarovsk to monitor the election.

UNDP Requests Continued Financial Support

OW0212070093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0553 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—The head of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on Thursday [2 December] asked for continued financial support from Japan to help third world nations develop their economies and societies, Japanese officials said.

UNDP Administrator James Speth filed the request during a 10- minute meeting with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

Hosokawa replied that he hopes Japan will contribute as much as it can.

Speth hailed Japan's contributions to U.N. peacekeeping efforts as "important," the officials said.

In fiscal 1992 ended March 1993, Japan donated some 92 million dollars in aid. It plans to give 96 million dollars to UNDP during fiscal 1993, they said.

Akashi Appointed To Lead UN Forces in Croatia

OW0312032393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0301 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] New York, Dec. 2 KYODO—The U.N. has appointed Yasushi Akashi, former head of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Cambodia, as the new chief of its peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday [2 December].

Akashi will leave for the former Communist country in eastern Europe early next week to command the 25,000-strong U.N. Protection Force at its headquarters in Zagreb in Croatia, the spokesman said.

U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has already reported Akashi's appointment to the Security Council and the council is expected to approve it soon.

Akashi, a Japanese national, will lead the peacekeeping operation to monitor cease-fires and assist with providing humanitarian aid to refugees in the former Yugoslavia, where Bosnia-Herzegovina has been tattered by civil war among Serbs, Muslims and Croatians since March last year.

The three ethnic factions are still haggling over the Geneva Peace Plan to divide the republic into three small individually- controlled states.

Akashi took the credit for successfully completing his duties as head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia in late September, after helping restore a legitimate government in the war- torn country during his 18-month mission.

Spokesman Welcomes Appointment

OW0312113793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japan welcomed Friday [3 December] the United Nations' appointment of Yasushi Akashi, a U.N. undersecretary general and former head of the U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, as the new chief of its peacekeeping mission in the former Yugoslavia.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Terusuke Terada told a news conference Japan is proud of Akashi's appointment to the post. Terada expressed hope that Akashi would produce results as successful in the former Yugoslavia as he did in Cambodia, by using the experience he gained in Cambodia.

Akashi was head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia until September.

The spokesman, however, denied that the appointment of a Japanese national to the U.N. post in the Balkans would boost Japan's assistance there, saying Tokyo has been making humanitarian contributions and that it will continue to do its utmost.

Last month, Japan extended a total of 20 million dollars to help people afflicted by conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovia, wracked by civil war among Serbs, Bosnian Muslims and Croatians since March last year.

The assistance included 18 million dollars to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, and 2 million dollars to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

A U.N. spokesman said Thursday in New York that Akashi will leave early next week to take command of the 25,000-strong U.N. protection force at its headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia.

U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has reported Akashi's appointment to the Security Council and the council is expected to approve it soon. Akashi will lead the peacekeeping operation to monitor cease-fires and assist with providing humanitarian aid to refugees in the former Yugoslavia.

Argentina's Menem Concludes Visit Activities

Accord Signed With Ex-Im Bank

OW3011073893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0702 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—Government-financed banks of Japan and Argentina signed an agreement Tuesday [30 November] to cooperate in promoting trade and investment between the two countries, the Export-Import [Ex-Im] Bank of Japan said. The announcement said the agreement was signed between the Japanese bank and the Banco de Inversion y Comercio Exterior, the Argentine Investment and Trade Promotion Bank.

The accord is expected to further bilateral cooperation between enterprises and industries in both countries.

The Argentine bank was established in 1991 to provide medium and long-term loans to privately owned banks to expand the country's foreign trade and promote investments in the private sector.

Hosokawa Pledges Loan to Argentina

OW0212111393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—Japan will loan up to 8.15 billion yen to Argentina to support the nation's efforts to improve the environment, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Thursday [2 December].

Hosokawa made the pledge in a meeting with Argentine President Carlos Menem, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

The loan will be provided for Argentina's program to improve sanitary conditions along the Reconquista River, which runs north of the capital of Buenos Aires, the officials said.

The loan is part of Japan's plan to expand its Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 900 billion to 1 trillion yen over a five-year period from 1992.

Tokyo expressed its intention to expand its ODA at the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June last year, they said. The loan will be extended in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), they said.

Menem Views Falklands Issue

OW0312093893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0919 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Argentine President Carlos Menem on Friday [3 December] ruled out a fresh military intervention in the Falkland Islands to get a newly found undersea oil field reported to be bigger than the one Britain has in the North Sea. "I will never authorize the acquisition of the Malvinas Islands (the

Argentine name for the islands) on the strength of our military," Menem said at a news conference at the Japan National Press Club.

Menem was responding to a question on whether the discovery of the huge oil field around the British-ruled Falkland Islands—reported Wednesday—would stir up nationalistic calls for military action to establish Argentine sovereignty on the disputed islands.

The British Government's Geological Research Institute has just reported the presence of the undersea oil field on the continental shelf within the 200 nautical miles from the islands.

Press reports quoted the institute as saying the oil field is 1.5 times the size of the North Sea oil field and that oil production could begin in five to seven years.

Menem, now on a six-day official visit to Japan, told reporters, "my administration is determined to develop the natural resources of the Malvinas Islands in conjunction with Britain and will seek a diplomatic solution on the issue of ownership of the islands." He said the Argentine people's desire to establish sovereignty over the islands should be distinguished from narrow-minded "antiforeign chauvinism."

Menem vowed to pursue friendly relations with Britain, saying, "the primary foreign policy I took after assuming the government was to restore diplomatic ties with Britain." Full diplomatic relations were restored with Britain in February 1990—shortly after Menem took over from his predecessor Raul Alfonsin in July 1989.

Menem recently told a television network "one of my greatest dreams" is to regain the Falklands Islands through diplomacy. He said the British will notice the absurdity of carrying the budgetary burden of maintaining a presence on the islands 13,000 kilometers from Britain.

The president defended his decision to pardon hundreds of military officers and civilians accused of kidnapping and killing an estimated 15,000 people during the Argentine military's "dirty war" against its presumed opponents in the 1970s.

"In order to bring about national reconciliation, someone had to summon up moral courage to give an amnesty to these people," the Menem said.

"I myself was jailed for five years by the military government from 1976," he said. "But my conviction was that I have to help democracy and freedom filter down to the Argentine society by giving the amnesty to the military and civilian collaborators who joined the terrorism."

Shortens Visit, Leaves for Home

OW0312141193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1342 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Argentine President Carlos Menem left Tokyo on Friday [3 December] night for home after a four-day official visit to Japan.

Menem met with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Thursday and with Emperor Akihito in an audience Friday.

Originally scheduled to visit Kyoto and Osaka on Saturday and Sunday, Menem cut short his stay for domestic political reasons.

Refugee Center Denies Mistreating Vietnamese

OW0212150393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Nagasaki, Dec. 2 KYODO—Officials at a detainment center for illegal immigrants in southern Japan refuted on Thursday [2 December] charges that it severely mistreated Vietnamese boat people. "It is absolutely untrue that any Vietnamese here were subjected to violent treatment," said Hideo Daian, a senior administrator of the center in Omura, Nagasaki Prefecture.

Daian also denied that Vietnamese at the center were denied adequate nutrition and were improperly placed in solitary confinement.

The official was responding to an article published in the official Vietnamese newspaper LAO DONG on Thursday [2 December] that quoted a deported illegal immigrant couple as saying conditions at the center were so bad that over half of the 400 or so detainees suffered from malnutrition and were physically weak. They reportedly said that when detainees protested their condition, officials of the center slammed their heads against iron bars, while other detainees had knives taken to them in an imitation of Japanese harakiri.

The husband and wife also said some detainees were locked up in cells in solitary confinement and monitored by surveillance cameras.

In rebuttal, Daian said the surveillance cameras were set up in outside areas to guard against escape attempts, but none were placed inside the rooms of detainees. He acknowledged that some Vietnamese were placed in solitary confinement after fights broke out among them, but he said it was deemed necessary until their mental state calmed down.

Daian said ample nutrition was provided and noted that representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees regularly visited the center to assess conditions and counsel detainees.

Vietnamese boat people are initially placed in the Omura refugee reception center until a decision is reached as to whether to accord them status as political refugees.

Those who are not accorded that status are moved to the center for illegal immigrants, which is located right next to the reception center, pending deportation.

The Vietnamese couple who made the charges are reportedly running a cafeteria in the busy border town of Mong Cai in the northern border province of Quang Ninh, about 140 kilometers east of Hanoi.

Foreign observers in Hanoi said the report was probably published as part of a government campaign aimed at discouraging people from fleeing abroad. On November 20, Premier Vo Van Kiet instructed the Defense and Interior Ministries and Haiphong and Quang Ninh Province authorities to intensify patrols to prevent such departures.

Plan Approved To Ease Curbs on Foreign Lawyers

OW0312134493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1326 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—The Japan Federation of Bar Associations on Friday [3 December] approved proposals to soften a string of curbs on the activities of foreign lawyers wishing to practice law in Japan, officials said.

Access to litigation and international business arbitration in Japan has been a key issue under negotiation at the Uruguay Round of global trade liberalization talks.

The federation, comprising over 13,000 attorneys across the country, made the decision at an extraordinary general meeting in Tokyo.

The proposals, put forth by the bar's leadership, call for allowing foreign lawyers to set up full-scale law offices in Japan in conjunction with Japanese lawyers, a practice currently banned.

The proposals, however, call for maintaining the current requirement that foreign lawyers be barred from handling legal matters involving only Japanese laws, they said.

The proposed joint law firms would also be prohibited from practicing law or arguing cases in civil lawsuits and criminal trials in Japanese courts, they said.

Based on the proposals, the federation and the Justice Ministry will draw up an amendment to the current law regulating the activities of foreign lawyers.

The government will submit the amendment to the next regular Diet session opening in late January, they said.

"The fresh proposals would neither influence Japan's attorney system nor its judicial system," said Saburo Abe, head of the federation.

Abe told a news conference following the general meeting, "the proposals would expedite an international linkup (between Japanese and foreign lawyers) more strongly."

Survey: Import Prices Slashed Due to High Yen

OW0212115093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—An overwhelming majority of department stores and supermarkets in Tokyo have already, or plan to, cut the price of their imported goods to pass on the benefits of the strong yen to consumers, according to a survey released Thursday [2 December] by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

The survey showed that 89 percent of such stores that responded said they have done or plan to do so in the wake of the steep rise of the yen since last February.

Most conspicuous was the sharp fall in prices of imported foodstuffs, including vegetables, fruits, oranges, beef and liquor.

The price of oranges has been cut by 31 percent since February, while banana prices have fallen 27 percent, whiskey 31 percent and salmon 27 percent. Prices of such items as imported clothing, cosmetics, shoes and tableware have dropped over 10 percent on average.

The survey, which covered the period from September 1-16, successfully solicited responses from 29 department stores and supermarket store chains.

It showed that eight of the department stores and 14 of the supermarket chains surveyed have already been holding yen-gain import sales to pass along to consumers the benefits of lower prices of imported foreign products, while another two department stores have plans to do so.

Firm Accused of Violating Foreign Exchange Law

OW0212052293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0509 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Kobe, Dec. 2 KYODO—The Toyota group's trading arm, Toyota Tsusho Corp., has allegedly violated foreign exchange regulations while trading in textile dyestuffs with Taiwan, police said Thursday [2 December].

Police filed with prosecutors Thursday a report of their investigations of Toyota Tsusho and four of its executive officials.

The company and the officials allegedly held sales profits from the Taiwan trading house in trust, without authorization, in violation of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Control Law, police said.

The Nagoya-based Toyota Tsusho, which is 21.7 percent owned by Toyota Motor Corp., exports Toyota cars, chiefly to Southeast Asia, China, the Middle East, and Latin America and is expanding its business activities to include nonautomobile items.

Direct Investment Overseas Reportedly Dips

OW0312121693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Direct investment overseas by Japanese enterprises in the first half of fiscal 1993 declined from the year before for the fourth straight year-on-year decline, reflecting the business slump, the Finance Ministry reported Friday [3 December].

The ministry said investments totaled 15,711 million dollars, down 9.6 percent from the year before.

Investments by the manufacturing sector plunged 21.5 percent while those by the non-manufacturing industry dipped a modest 3.8 percent due to a 32.8 percent surge in real estate investment, the ministry said.

Ministry officials said, however, that the increase in real estate investment was attributable to a rise in remittances from parent firms to liquidate their real estate subsidiaries overseas as part of the restructuring of their operations.

Investments in the United States plummeted 20.1 percent while those in Asian countries declined 2.2 percent, the ministry said.

Investments in Europe climbed 11.5 percent, paced by brisk investments in chemical and commercial industries, it said.

Egyptian Envoy on Japanese 'Prolonged Recession'

OW0212111993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—Japan's prolonged recession may help boost private investment in Egypt, Cairo's ambassador to Japan Mirvat al-Tillawi said Thursday [2 December].

"Investment has reached a climax in both Europe and America, I believe that the Middle East and Africa will be the next region to which the Japanese investment and technology will travel," al-Tillawi said at her inaugural news conference at the Japan National Press Club.

Al-Tillawi, who took up the post two months ago, said that it makes good economic sense for Japanese companies to invest overseas, and that rising wages in Asia will make the Middle East and Africa more attractive.

The former (?head) of Egypt's delegation to the Middle East peace conference said enhanced trade and investment would also benefit Japan by leading to greater multilateral cooperation in the Middle East.

Al-Tillawi criticized the international media for a tendency to question the security of investments in her country due to terrorist acts by Muslim fundamentalists, as well as its portrayal of Muslim women.

"Terrorism is everywhere. In Germany, they killed foreigners on purpose, they burned their houses, and still investment from Japan or from elsewhere would go to Germany," she said, likening Islamic terrorist groups to the Japanese Red Army and the Ku Klux Klan.

Last week, Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi narrowly survived a car bomb attack that was later claimed by Jihad, an offshoot of the group that successfully killed former President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981.

Asked about a legal case regarding the treatment of women, al-Tillawi, who chaired the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women earlier this year, complained that journalists would not ask U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale about street crime in Washington.

Conservative Islamic groups that insist women should use a veil are contradicting Islam, which she said requires a woman to be "decently covered, but never said that she should be like a ghost."

"By propagating this wrong side of Islam, the (media) are encouraging them, and as a woman I am against this... They are doing a wrong thing to us," said al-Tillawi, the first Egyptian woman to be appointed envoy to Japan.

Extension of Loan to Ghana Announced

OW0112113093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—Japan will loan up to 11.64 billion yen to Ghana to assist in water and railway projects, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday [1 December].

Japanese Ambassador to Ghana Toshihiro Kojima and Ghana's Foreign Minister Obed Asamoah exchanged documents on the loan in the country's capital of Accra, the ministry said.

It will be provided in cooperation with the World Bank's sister organ, the International Development Association, it said.

The 30-year loan, with a 10-year grace period, carries an annual interest rate of 2.6 percent. It brings to 78.43 billion yen total Japanese loans to Ghana, the ministry said.

LDP Continues To Question Government on SDF

OW0312050793 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Yoshiro Mori, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], stressed at a news conference this morning that the LDP will continue to question the Hosokawa administration's stance regarding remarks by cabinet members of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] regarding the Self-Defense Forces [SDF].

Mori said this issue demonstrates the contradictions within the present Hosokawa administration, which is composed of political parties embracing conflicting policies. It is not a question that concerns Keisuke Nakanishi alone. He said the LDP is not satisfied with the government's official view concerning remarks by SDPJ cabinet members regarding the SDF, and there is a need to continue questioning the government's stance.

Significance of Nakanishi's Resignation Viewed

OW0212161893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1607 GMT 2 Dec 93

[By Takehiko Kajita]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—The resignation of Defense Agency Chief Keisuke Nakanishi is the first serious blow to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa since the inauguration in August of his fragile seven-party coalition government.

With record postwar popularity among voters, Hosokawa has managed relatively well to steer the ship of state through potentially stormy political seas.

But clouds appeared on the horizon when Nakanishi made remarks suggesting Japan should review its Constitution to allow a more active military role for the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) in United Nations peacekeeping missions abroad.

An alliance of parties spanning the political spectrum, the coalition government has left various policy differences among its partners unresolved and adopted a joint front in order to achieve long-delayed political reforms.

One example of such policy differences is regarding the Constitution—whether to respect its Article 9, which bans the use of force in resolving international disputes, and keep the 46-year-old charter untouched for good, or to amend it to accommodate present realities.

Nakanishi, a senior legislator from coalition member Shinseito, expressed his "personal view" on the Constitution, knowing what the likely effect would be on Japan's political community.

The Nakanishi affair comes at a time when the government is facing a number of formidable challenges, such as political reform, the protracted economic slump and international pressure to open its rice market.

As time ticks away to the December 15 close of the current extraordinary Diet session, Hosokawa now faces serious trouble in living up to his pledge to see through political reforms aimed at rooting out the corruption endemic in Japanese public life by the year's end. Although a government-proposed political reform package cleared the House of Representatives in mid-November, debate in the House of Councillors has been proceeding slowly because of discussion of the second supplementary budget for fiscal 1993.

Hosokawa can technically extend the Diet session for a certain period, but the likelihood that he can make good on his promise to achieve reform by his self-imposed deadline within this year is rapidly waning.

With no sign of a recovery in the Japanese economy, the premier urgently needs to compile the fiscal 1994 national budget by the end of the year and is unlikely to concentrate on political reforms alone.

Furthermore, Hosokawa will have to make a tough decision soon on whether to partially open Japan's rice market to foreign competition to help bring the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations to a successful conclusion by the December 15 deadline. He has already faced stiff resistance to any form of lifting the nation's ban on rice imports from within the coalition government and from the opposition camp.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura told a late-night news conference Nakanishi's quick resignation marked an end to the affair and expressed hope the government can get quickly back to business. He cited the expression "after the storm comes a calm," but it is not certain that things will go as smoothly as he hopes.

Hosokawa Names Aichi New Defense Agency Chief

OW0212150193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1453 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Thursday [2 December] named Kazuo Aichi, a former Environment Agency Chief, as the new head of the Defense Agency following the resignation the same day of Keisuke Nakanishi. The new 56-year-old Aichi is Nakanishi's colleague in Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], one of the main forces in the seven-party coalition government. Aichi is from Miyagi Prefecture and has served seven terms in the House of Representatives.

Nakanishi resigned amid a stormy parliamentary row sparked by his suggestion that Japan amend its Constitution to allow the military to play a more active role in United Nations peacekeeping. Nakanishi's remark was condemned not only by the opposition but also the Social Democratic Party, the largest of the seven-party coalition partners.

The outcry forced a halt in the House of Representatives Budget Committee deliberation by prompting the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Japanese Communist Party (JCP) to boycott the session designed to debate on fresh pump-priming measures for the nation's anemic economy.

Nakanishi told a news conference at the agency following talks with Hosokawa, "as long as I refuse to resign, Diet deliberations cannot be resumed, so I feel responsible."

"I concluded that I should resign, because it would have a negative impact on the Diet schedule if I did not," he said.

Nakanishi, a longtime advocate of the need to give a combatant duty to Japanese peacekeepers, told a study meeting of Shinseito legislators on Wednesday, "it is no good (for us) to stick to the Constitution, which was drafted half a century ago." The remark was taken as a call to make the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) play a more active role in U.N. peacekeeping operations by amending the Constitution's Article 9 which bans the use of force to resolve international conflicts.

Aichi 'Internationally-Minded' Politician

OW0212155993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1538 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—New Defense Agency Chief Kazuo Aichi, 56, is regarded as an internationally-minded politician and known as an expert on environmental issues, having served as director general of the Environmental Agency in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Aichi, currently a senior officer in charge of policy affairs of Shinseito, an LDP splinter party, has previously served in such posts as parliamentary vice foreign minister and director general of the LDP's International Bureau. While serving as state minister and head of the Environment Agency, he proposed that Japan take a lead in tackling global environmental issues.

Aichi, born in Tokyo, was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976 from the constituency of Miyagi Prefecture, in northeast Japan, succeeding his father-in-law Kiichi Aichi who served in various key posts including chief cabinet secretary, foreign minister and finance minister in LDP governments in the 1960s and 1970s.

Before he became secretary to his father-in-law, he worked for NKK Corp. after graduating from the prestigious Tokyo University.

Aichi said he seceded from the LDP last year with the hope of reflecting white-collar workers' opinions at the national political level based on his own experience. In 1989, Aichi intended to run in a gubernatorial election in Miyagi Prefecture, but gave up his attempt after his relations with the scandal-tainted information giant Recruit Co. surfaced.

Aichi Promises To Be 'Careful' With Remarks

OW0312044093 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Announcer-read report with recorded video; from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] In a news conference following a cabinet meeting today Kazuo Aichi, new director general of the Defense Agency, said he would be careful about remarks on security issues.

[Begin Aichi recording] The government is now at a very important point in time. Any remarks by the director general of the Defense Agency have great impact at home and tend to receive undue emphasis. Security issues can turn into international issues as well. When I think about the possible impact such remarks can have, I have no choice but to be careful. [end recording]

Hosokawa Pledges No Constitution Revision

OW0312025693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa pledged Friday [3 December] that his cabinet will not take up constitutional revision on the political schedule. Hosokawa made the remarks at the beginning of Friday's session of the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

The prime minister apologized for remarks made on Wednesday by Defense Agency Chief Keisuke Nakanishi, who resigned Thursday amid controversy. On Wednesday, Nakanishi suggested that the Constitution should be revised to clarify the grounds for Japan's participation in U.N. peacekeeping missions.

Deliberations in the committee stalled Thursday over his remarks.

On Wednesday night, Nakanishi, while attending a study meeting of Shinseito lawmakers of the House of Councillors in Tokyo said, "It is no good (for us) to stick to the Constitution, which was drafted half a century ago."

The Liberal Democratic Party and the Japanese Communist Party demanded Nakanishi's resignation saying he violated the constitutional obligation for cabinet members to respect the Constitution.

To 'Uphold' Current Constitution

OW0312060193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0531 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa vowed on Friday [3 December] to honor the Constitution, a day after his defense chief quit over remarks that it should be changed to allow a greater role by Japan in U.N. peacekeeping.

Hosokawa said, "I would like to make clear my cabinet has no plan to take up any form of constitutional amendment on the political agenda and will continue to respect and uphold the current Constitution."

Hosokawa made the comment to the House of Representatives Budget Committee after Defense Agency Chief Keisuke Nakanishi resigned to take responsibility for a Diet impasse over his remarks.

Nakanishi, speaking on Wednesday to senior members of his party, Shinseito, suggested a review of the Constitution to allow a more active military role for the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) in United Nations peacekeeping missions overseas.

The premier offered an apology for the effect on Diet deliberations of Nakanishi's remarks and said ministers of his cabinet must abide by the administration's policy of not revising the Constitution. "As long as the cabinet takes a stand of not considering constitutional amendment, it is natural that its ministers observe the policy," Hosokawa said.

Nakanishi said Wednesday, "It is no good (for us) to stick to the Constitution, which was drafted half a century ago."

Nakanishi stepped down on Thursday night. He was replaced by another Shinseito legislator, Kazuo Aichi, and is the first member of the Hosokawa cabinet to resign since the seven-party coalition government was formed in August, ending the 38-year monopoly on power by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

In Friday's committee debate, Katsuhiko Shirakawa of the LDP quizzed cabinet ministers from the Social Democratic Party (SDP) about Nakanishi's remarks. The SDP, the largest force within the ruling coalition, had long viewed the existence of the SDF as a violation of the pacifist Constitution but agreed to take part in a coalition government that sticks with key policies formulated by LDP governments, including those on diplomacy and defense.

Sadao Yamahana, former SDP chairman and now minister in charge of political reform, said the cabinet should abide by the Constitution and that Nakanishi's remarks were therefore inappropriate.

Manae Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, said it is natural for her, as a cabinet member, to follow cabinet policies but declined comment on whether she personally regards the SDF as being unconstitutional.

Transport Minister Shigeru Ito said he will act as a cabinet minister and as an individual SDP legislator in accordance with the Constitution and sidestepped a question about whether the SDP's long-standing policy on the SDF is compatible with the Hosokawa cabinet's stance.

Court Urged To Cancel Nuclear Plant Permit

OW0312040593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0346 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Aomori, Dec. 3 KYODO—Opponents of a plant for reprocessing nuclear fuel being built in northeastern Japan asked a court Friday [3 December] to annul its operating permit.

The 150 members of an antinuclear group opposed to the plant in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, made the plea in an administrative suit filed with the Aomori District Court.

They argue that the government granted the permit illegally, as it is based on security checks that did not meet required standards.

The facility for reprocessing plutonium and other radioactive substances from used nuclear fuel is expected to start operating in 2000. The government regards it as an important element in the nation's long-term plans to develop a full-fledged nuclear fuel cycle and become self-sufficient in plutonium.

The group has already filed for annulment of operating permits for three other facilities in Rokkasho—a uranium enrichment plant, an underground storage facility for low-level radioactive waste, and another storage facility for highly radioactive substances. They are operated by Japan Nuclear Fuel Co.

The enrichment plant, Japan's first large commercial facility for uranium enrichment, began operating in March 1992.

In the suit, the plaintiffs say that reprocessing of nuclear fuel is unnecessary in view of the global oversupply of plutonium. They also argue that the reprocessing technology is not fully developed and that some countries have slowed or scrapped their nuclear fuel recycling activities.

Besides fears that radioactivity might leak from the plant, the group cited misgivings about safety, including the possibility of earthquakes or plane crashes, especially as fighter aircraft from the nearby U.S. air base in Misawa frequently fly over the site.

Coalition Prepares For Diet Extension

OW0312140993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1341 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—The coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa may propose extending the current Diet session substantially beyond December 15 in order to win passage of a set of four political reform bills early next year, coalition sources said Friday [3 December].

It is not clear by how long the government will propose to extend the 90-day extraordinary session, which was originally due to close December 15.

Hosokawa has staked his political future on the enactment of the political reform bills, which call for the introduction of a mixture of single-seat constituencies and proportional representation in general elections to the House of Representatives.

The government may call for extending the session through late January, shortly before the annual 160-day ordinary session is to convene.

However, the main opposition party, the Liberal Democratic Party, is poised to oppose a lengthy extension of the extraordinary session.

The Japanese Communist Party, another opposition party, has joined the LDP in opposing an extension of the Diet session.

Political sources say the coalition government has abandoned a bid to pass the reform bills by the end of this year.

Soon after assuming office in early August, Hosokawa said he would take political responsibility if he failed to achieve political reform by the end of the year, a hint that he would step down.

In the House of Councillors, there have as yet been no committee deliberations on the political reform bills, which passed the House of Representatives on November 18. The delay in the second chamber is partially the result of the need to conduct deliberations on a second supplementary budget for fiscal 1993 which is aimed at helping revive Japan's faltering economy.

The seven parties in the ruling coalition hope to launch discussions on reform bills in the upper house committee on Tuesday, coalition sources said.

Upper house members have said the house needs at least one month of deliberation on the bills to provide the basis for a decision.

Extremist Arrested for Kyoto Temple Fire in Apr

OW0212150793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1353 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Kyoto, Dec. 2 KYODO—Police arrested a leader of the extremist Chukakuha (Middle Core) faction Thursday [2 December] on charges of setting fire in April to a temple in Kyoto connected to the Imperial Household in an apparent protest at the emperor's visit to Okinawa.

Police said Toshiaki Hashimoto, 50, set a time device at the Sanzenin Temple in the early morning of April 25 and partly damaged the ceiling of the temple. He also set a time device to a storehouse of the Shorenin Temple in Kyoto in late April, but it failed to go off, they said.

On April 25, besides the Sanzenin Temple, minor fires broke out at the Shorenin Temple, the Ninnaji Temple and the Tanaka Shinto Shrine, all in Kyoto, almost simultaneously.

The fires damaged part of the main hall of the Ninnaji Temple, a national treasure and destroyed parts of the other three.

The master of the Shorenin Temple is a younger brother of Empress Dowager Nagako, the widow of Emperor Showa, and the other three also have connections with the Imperial Household.

In a series of extremist attacks, a police box in Kyoto and a branch office of a Tokyo-based Friendship Association of Former Imperial Nobility were also partly damaged on the night of April 24.

Police are questioning Hashimoto over his alleged role in a series of attacks. They arrested Hashimoto in Osaka immediately after he left a trial session at the Osaka High Court over a separate charge of interference with police officers in a 1991 raid on a hideout in Shiga Prefecture.

Tabuchi Warns Hosokawa Against Financial Crisis

OW0212141693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1358 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—The former chairman of Nomura Securities Co., Setsuya Tabuchi, said Thursday [2 December] he has urged Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to take further economic stimulus measures, including an income tax cut, to boost the stock market and prevent a collapse of the financial system.

Tabuchi, currently an adviser to Nomura, said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE that he told Hosokawa at the end of last month that the reason why stock prices are slumping is the weak fundamentals of the economy and that the market is critical about what the government has been doing.

He said it is widely believed that public funds are necessary to solve the problem of the huge nonperforming loans carried by financial institutions.

Meanwhile, Tabuchi urged the government to make clear that the expected income tax reduction will be a step taken to tackle the recession rather than merely describing it as part of tax reforms to correct the imbalance of direct and indirect taxes.

He also called for the need to ease rules on treasury stocks and allow companies to acquire their own shares, noting that the business slump is eroding the long-standing cross share holdings among Japanese companies.

Tabuchi predicted stock prices would start to recover next fall prior to a revival of Japan's economy in 1995. In the short term, he said he thinks indications by the government to further introduce economic stimulation measures soon would stabilize stock prices.

Fujii Rules Out 'Imminent' Economic Package

OW0312020893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0159 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii on Friday [3 December] ruled out any imminent plans to draw up an additional pump-priming package, and stressed he places top priority on the second extra budget.

Fujii told reporters after a morning cabinet meeting he was not yet ready to discuss new fiscal measures, in a reference to a reported agreement by the ruling coalition parties to take such action by mid-December. "I have no knowledge of the agreement," he said.

Instead, Fujii stressed that the passage through the Diet of the second supplementary budget, to finance the September package, must come first.

Asked to clarify his agreement made earlier this week with International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai to take economic measures, Fujii repeated the top priority was to pass the second extra budget and then to emphasize the economy in the fiscal 1994 budget. Fujii also repeated that his ministry is working on the fiscal 1994 budget to draft it "within the year."

On actions agreed to stimulate the land market, Fujii rejected reports on such plans as cutting land taxes, saying, "We just agreed to study ways to revitalize.... There are yet no concrete plans." He said, "the basic principle on the land tax system will not be changed," and noted that special treatment taken to stem the unprecedented land speculation in the late 1980s could take the discussion table with other related ministries and agencies.

On an income tax cut, Fujii said the government is now explaining the "medium-term" report submitted by the tax commission, and it's now in "the stage for the ruling parties to arrange opinions on what to include in the fiscal 1994 tax reform." The advisory panel to the prime minister called for an income tax cut and an consumption tax hike in the report, and left a decision on the amount and timing to politicians.

On mounting market hopes for another discount rate cut, Fujii said, "I have no idea."

Kubota Urges Implementation of Stimulus Package

OW0312021893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0209 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Economic Planning Agency (EPA) Director General Manae Kubota on Friday [3 December] urged the government to take pump-priming steps to revive the ailing Japanese economy.

Everybody thinks Japan needs short-term economic measures urgently, Kubota told a regular press conference. But she refrained from revealing the specifics of a new economic package reportedly being considered by the government for release next week.

Kubota said she is not aware of even whether or not any measures will be compiled as a package. She said she expects the Advisory Group for Economic Restructuring, an advisory body to the prime minister, to include "steps with quick effects" in its final report on Japan's economic restructuring, to be unveiled later this month.

Set up in September this year, the Advisory Group for Economic Restructuring is headed by Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), the most powerful business lobby in Japan.

Kubota said major elements of stimulus measures being studied by the government may be based on the Hiraiwa report.

The report should focus not only on long-term restructuring measures but on "a quick fix" to help the Japanese economy out of the long slump, she said. She said she understands that measures under the report will mainly address ways to improve overall living standards for ordinary people, which she said have been "neglected" by Japanese economic policy in the past.

She also called for early parliamentary passage of the second supplementary budget for fiscal 1993, which finances part of a 6.15 trillion yen economic package adopted in September. She said great attention should be paid to ways to shore up the economy in formulating the fiscal 1994 national budget.

Kumagai: Need for Urgent Stimulus Measures

OW0312030693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0259 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japan's trade minister on Friday [3 December] stressed the need for emergency measures to prop up the ailing economy. "We have to do everything we can," said International Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshi Kumagai at a press conference.

He said it is necessary to approve the supplementary budget, take large-scale fiscal measures and implement effective monetary steps.

Kumagai likened the current economic situation to a weak patient, saying of structural reform, "It cannot stand an operation without anesthesia. First, it needs to build up its physical strength."

While not elaborating on the necessary monetary steps, Kumagai said that this week statistics such as employment data and industrial production figures caused considerable economic uncertainty.

EPA Head Opposes Consumption Tax Increase

OW0312052993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0511 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—The chief of the Economic Planning Agency [EPA] voiced opposition Friday [3 December] to raising the consumption tax in fiscal 1994 as a way to finance an income tax cut. Though the economy is in poor shape, "a tax increase in principle should be avoided," EPA Director General Manae Kubota told the House of Representatives' Budget Committee.

"The issue of what to do with the consumption tax should be looked upon from a medium- and long-term viewpoint as part of deliberations on how to balance the overall tax system," she said.

In a report presented to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, a government advisory panel proposed a large cut in income taxes with a deferred increase in the consumption tax, but left the most sensitive questions—the timing and size of any tax changes—to the government.

In remarks to the lower house committee, Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii reiterated that he supports the idea of an income tax cut in a package with an increase in the consumption tax, currently at 3 percent.

"The proposed idea by the Tax Commission is correct. I will respect it," Fujii said, without going into details.

Panel on Opposition to Deficit-Covering Bonds

OW0312115593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1107 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—A government advisory panel expressed its strong opposition Friday [3 December] to the issuing of deficit-covering bonds, while repeating its proposals for simultaneous cuts and hikes in the income and consumption taxes.

"Financial resources must be secured," said Kan Kato, head of the tax Commission, referring to growing support in the government for an early income tax cut to shore up the economy, even if this necessitates the issuing of deficit-covering bonds.

"We, the tax panel, will keep to our basic principle of simultaneous implementation"—of an income tax cut and a consumption tax hike—he told reporters after a scheduled panel discussion on fiscal 1994 tax reform.

The advisory panel to the prime minister made the proposal for simultaneous action in its "medium-term" tax reform report submitted in November.

In remarks to the press at the time, Kato left the "decision" in the hands of politicians.

In his comments on Friday concerning possible inclusion of both a cut and hike in its fiscal 1994 reform proposals, Kato reiterated, "it's up to the government." But he hinted at the panel's support for such inclusion, saying "we are more strongly considering the economic conditions."

Meanwhile, he cautioned the so-called Hiraiwa committee not to get caught up in the same dilemma after its reported agreement to call for early, drastic income tax cuts.

The advisory group for economic restructuring reportedly reached agreement after Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa instructed it to include such short-term economic action in its final report to be published in mid-December.

The private advisory panel to Hosokawa, headed by Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), was established to study medium- to long-term economic restructuring.

"I even feel sympathy," said Kato, noting the Hiraiwa committee could face criticism from the ruling parties if it is seen deciding on concrete tax cuts.

Meanwhile, Kato also rejected reports that the government is planning to ease land taxes to bolster liquidity in the land market, while stressing that the medium-term report proposed leaving the land tax system unchanged.

At the Friday meeting, the panel focused its discussion on reviewing the methods of making tax revenue projections as well as on "unfair" aspects of the tax system such as special tax treatment of nonprofit institutions.

As for the path ahead, a meeting of a special subcommittee considering a taxpayer numbering system and a general panel gathering are both scheduled for next Tuesday, Kato said.

Small-Business Index Slumps for 37th Month

OW0112083993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0812 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—The business index for Japan's smaller enterprises for November stayed below the boom-or-bust line of 50 for the 37th consecutive month, a government-backed financial institution reported Wednesday [1 December].

The Shook Chukin Bank said the November index stood at 43.8, compared with 42.8 the previous month.

The index was based on a survey which covered 800 client companies of the bank on November 15.

The bank said business is worsening for the textile, machinery, and other manufacturing industries and forecast the December index at 44.6. It also predicted December sales in all industries are likely to fall 0.9 percent from a year earlier.

Mieno Supports Writing Off Small Banks' Loans

OW0112042893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0401 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 1 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday [1 December] that the central bank will do everything possible to help private banks write off their bad loans.

"Efforts to dispose of bad loans will lead to stability of the financial system and contribute to an economic recovery," he said in response to a question by a lawmaker of Komeito, one of the ruling coalition parties, at the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives.

Asked about the possibility of lowering short-term money rates, Mieno said the central bank will try to make the rates reflect the real economy although the rates basically should be determined by the perceptions of market participants and prospects of money rates.

Growing Number of Small Firms Suffer Losses

OW0212145293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1314 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—The current business slump has dealt a heavy blow to small firms, with a growing number of them suffering operating losses in the past three months, a government finance corporation reported Thursday [2 December].

Japan Finance Corp. for Small Business, citing its survey on small to medium-sized companies for November, said a record 39 percent of the firms polled reported losses over the last three months, up 3.3 percentage points from the previous month.

The corporation said the diffusion index for sales, or the percentage of companies reporting sales growth minus those with negative results, stood at minus 21.5, registering a minus figure for the 29th straight month.

The poor results were attributable to rising costs against declining sales, it said.

Another survey by the private National Federation of Small Business Associations showed that 53.4 percent of small firms complained about worsening business results in 1993, a twofold increase over the preceding year.

The federation said 9.0 percent of about 22,800 respondents described the business environment as fairly bad, while 44.4 percent called it bad.

It said 39.9 percent described it as normal and only 6.6 percent said it is fairly good or good.

The federation said 55.1 percent attributed their poor business performances to sluggish sales and decreasing new orders while 36.8 percent complained about rising personnel costs.

EPA's Vice Minister Discusses FY 1993 Growth

OW0312121793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—The vice minister of the Economic Planning Agency hinted Friday [3 December] Japan's recession hit economy may shrink in fiscal 1993 ending March 31.

Tsutomu Tanaka said the domestic economy may score "minus growth" as it faces a severe business environment.

"According to my personal outlook, the Japanese economy will end in a range of between 1.0 percent growth to a slight decline," Tanaka told reporters.

The government has projected a 3.3 percent real growth rate for the domestic economy for the current fiscal year.

The last decline in the domestic economy was recorded in fiscal 1974.

Orders for Public Works Projects Decline

OW3011073793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0705 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 30 KYODO—New orders for public works projects received by 50 major contractors in October slumped 11.6 percent from a year earlier to 407,013 million yen, the Construction Ministry reported Tuesday [30 November].

It was the sixth straight month for orders to decline from the year-earlier level.

Ministry officials attributed the decline to a bribery scandal involving the construction industry.

Local authorities have put off major projects and placed small orders ahead of schedule or slashed orders to major general contractors because of the scandal, the officials said.

The year-to-year drop, however, was smaller than that in September, in reaction to big projects undertaken two years ago, the officials said.

Orders from central government agencies increased 6.3 percent in October from a year before but those from local authorities plunged 23.6 percent.

Labor Hotline Flooded With Worker Complaints

OW0212095693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0716 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 2 KYODO—Discontented Japanese workers flooded an emergency labor hot line the first three days this week with a number of complaints and concerns, the Tokyo branch of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) said Thursday [2 December].

Nearly half of the 238 calls received by the counseling office were from people concerned about losing their jobs in the current economic hard times, while other callers complained about the failure of some firms to pay wages and retirement money.

Rengo said that due to the worsening employment situation, it is planning to create a permanent labor counseling office.

According to the results compiled by the hot line from Monday to Wednesday, 112 of the callers wanted to discuss their dismissal situation, 21 complained about not being paid their regular wages, and another 13 people said they had not been paid their retirement money.

One 57-year-old worker at a construction firm said he was troubled that the company had decided to reduce the number of its employees by 10 percent and one of the measures to be taken was to retire employees over 57 years of age.

"This was decided without any discussion with me even though I had only three more years to go until my retirement. Further, officials who had come (into the company) from the Construction Ministry were not included (in the cutbacks)," he said.

A 37-year-old employee of a computer software company expressed concern about receiving his wages since the firm has dismissed its 400 workers.

A manufacturing company employee, 50, said he was "very worried" that he may be forced to retire as the firm has indicated it was asking employees over the age of 43 to voluntarily retire.

Youth Reportedly Losing Interest in Science

OW0312010193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0041 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Young Japanese want the benefits of science and engineering but are increasingly reluctant to become scientists or engineers themselves, the annual White Paper on Science and Technology said Friday [3 December].

The white paper, prepared for the cabinet by the Science and Technology Agency, warned that the trend away from science and technology was most pronounced in university enrollments where the number of students choosing engineering has remained below those choosing economics since 1988.

At a press briefing to explain the contents of the White Paper, Yukihiro Hirano, director of the agency's Science and Technology Policy Bureau Research Division, said the trend could pose problems for Japan's growth in the future unless corrected.

An agency survey, reproduced in the White Paper, indicates that people in their 20s are very interested in using personal computers and word processors, but show much less interest in news items related to science or technology.

The same survey showed the opposite trend among older people where among those above about 40 years of age, interest in science-related news was high but understanding of word processors or personal computers was poor.

Hirano said the White Paper points to a need to make science and technology more accessible and appealing to the average person if Japan is to keep up with industry demand for scientists and engineers in the future.

The White Paper cites the examination system with its emphasis on "the mere learning of an enormous number of facts," difficulty of comprehending science and technology in everyday life, the more attractive wages paid to science graduates by other industry sectors, particularly banks, as factors in the move away from science and technology.

"I do not think we can deny the fact that in the past young people enjoyed studying science and technology," Hirano said.

"And the basis for Japanese manufacturing was the enthusiasm of young people studying science and technology. Our concern is not just with the deterioration in the number of scientists and engineers, but in their quality," he said.

Hirano said a specially formulated advisory council within the agency is preparing a report on the problem for submission to the government probably in the summer. The council will draw up a strategy, based on public reaction to the White Paper, aimed at making science and technology more appealing to young Japanese, he said.

North Korea

Commentator Denounces CIA Director's Remarks

SK0312133593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Commentary by Chong Pong-kil: "Military Pressure Will Not Work"]

[Text] On 30 November, Woolsey, director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, reportedly made absurd remarks that very much incited us. After saying it is important to make combat preparations to attack us and that he cannot rule out the possibility of war, he babbled that the President gave such instructions.

This is a provocative violent remark of war that could be uttered by none other than a vicious warmonger who intends to bring the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war and an act that very much incites us. All the more serious is the fact that, as Woolsey said, the President issued this instruction.

When he was announcing the results of the so-called U.S.-South Korean summit talks some time ago, U.S. President Clinton, with us in mind, threatened that if one launches an attack, one will pay dearly for it. We cannot but take very serious note of the fact that immediately after that he ordered combat preparations internally.

These remarks by the U.S. authorities are a flagrant violation of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement and an act of betrayal against the dialogue partner. It cannot be construed otherwise than an act to block the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks.

Out of a desire to fundamentally resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula on an equal and fair footing, we have proposed a package deal under which the sides decide on what each side should do, then do it simultaneously. Our package deal is a fair proposal that fully complies with the principle of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement, which the U.S. side affirmatively assessed. Given the fact that the United States, without doing what it should do, recklessly made violent remarks of war, it is certain that the United States is trying to fulfill its dirty political purpose by means of military pressure.

The nuclear issue was raised on the Korean peninsula because the United States, after deploying approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons of various types in South Korea, was constantly flinging nuclear threats against us.

Therefore, the United States must fulfill its responsibility as a country that originally raised the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. Nevertheless, the U.S. warmongers have tried to keep the aggression forces and the approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea forever and have expressed their intention of continuing the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a mock nuclear war and a preliminary war.

The United States has been posed as a fundamental problem in resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. Nevertheless, without resolving issues that it should resolve, the United States, finding fault with us, who have no intention of developing nuclear weapons and have no capability or necessity to develop them, has now openly made violent remarks that the possibility of war cannot be ruled out. This is a shameless act like a thief turning on the victim with a club.

The United States must clearly know that if it tries to impose its unjust demands on us, its dialogue partner, by using pressure and crush [apsal] us, this will bring very dangerous consequences. To respond to war with war is the firm position and will of our people who treasure national dignity.

Through a statement by a DPRK Defense Ministry spokesman, we have stated that if the United States makes a blank paper out of the principle of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement and quits attending the talks, there will be no need for us to inconveniently suspend any longer the effectuation of our withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

No coercion or threat can resolve anything.

If the United States sincerely hopes for the resolution of the nuclear issue, it must, though belatedly, attend the talks sincerely, instead of deviating from the path of dialogue and resorting to pressure while talking about sanctions or the possibility of war.

The United States must discard the old confrontational concept of the Cold War era and promptly stop the foolish moves to contain us with strength. It had better act properly, knowing well its dialogue partner.

U.S.-ROK 'Aerial War Exercise' Held 1 Dec

SK0312044093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists staged an aerial war exercise to strike targets in the strategic depth of the DPRK in the skies above Yongwol, Wonju and Muju, South Korea, on December 1 by mobilizing overseas-based pursuit assault planes, commanding planes and mid-air refuelling tankers in coordination with flying corps of the U.S. Airforce in South Korea and the puppet airforce, according to military sources.

Meanwhile, a group of tanks and large-calibre artillery units of the South Korean puppet army fired shells to areas adjacent to the Demilitarized Zone in Paju, Yonchon and Chorwon Counties, getting on the nerves of the North.

That day, armed bandits of the puppet army took combat positions in Paengnyong-ri and Jomwon-ri in Paju County and charged toward the Military Demarcation Line, firing 1,500 bullets of large-calibre machine guns and automatic rifles.

The frantic war games of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are premeditated military provocations to deliberately aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Radio Denounces 'War Exercise'

SK0312070093 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] According to a military source, on 1 December the U.S. imperialists staged a provocative aerial war exercise aimed at invading the North together with the puppets by mobilizing pursuit assault planes, commanding planes, and mid-air refueling tankers from their bases overseas.

That day, pursuit assault planes took off from bases overseas to fly into the skies of Yongwol, Wonju, and

Muju and frantically stage a bombing exercise aimed at striking targets in the strategic depths of the northern half of the republic in coordination with the flying corps of the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the puppet Air Force.

This war exercise staged under the command of an E-3 early-warning aircraft called air command post was participated in by fighter-bombers, assault planes, pursuit assault planes, observation planes, and reconnaissance planes.

A flying formation of KC-135 refueling tankers from Guam air base flew into the skies of the sea off Kunsan to support this reckless war exercise and carried out mid-air refueling to scores of fighter-bombers participating in the aerial war exercise.

The purpose of this war exercise is to promote the E-3 early-warning aircraft's unified command of airplanes from U.S. air bases overseas, and airplanes belonging to the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the puppet Air Force and their joint strike capability for a northward invasion.

Meanwhile, the South Korean puppets frantically fired shells in front of our area adjacent to the DMZ. On 1 December, a group of tanks of the puppet army deployed in the area of Kumpa-ri, Paju county fired some 30 rounds of tank shells towards the opposite bank of the Imjin River. On the same day, large-caliber artillery units deployed in the areas of (Chongja-ri), Paju county; Oksan-ri, Yonchon-up, Yonchon county; and (Kanu-ri), Chorwon county, Kangwon Province of South Korea fired some 100 rounds of shells ares adjacent to the DMZ.

That day, armed bandits of the puppet army took combat positions in Paengnyong-ri and Chomwon-ri in Paju county, advanced toward the direction of the Military Demarcation Line, and fired 1,500 bullets from large-caliber machine guns and automatic rifles.

The powder-reeking, frantic war games by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are premeditated military provocations to artificially aggravate the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Paper Says South Held Gas 'War Exercise'

SK0312043393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 3 Dec 93

["To Bring Poison-Gas Disaster to Fellow Countrymen"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—The South Korean rulers recently decided to possess chemical weapons and present it to the "National Assembly" next year. And they staged a war exercise with biochemical weapons some time ago as part of the "Foal Eagle 93" joint military manoeuvres.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says:

They are overtly seeking the possession of chemical weapons the use of which is banned worldwide and openly staged even a chemical warfare exercise with outside forces. This fully revealed their very dangerous criminal design to impose poison-gas disaster upon fellow countrymen.

It must not go unnoticed that they are hastening preparations for chemical warfare while charging the North with the "development of biochemical weapons" and defending their design to possess chemical weapons as a step to cope with the North's "chemical warfare." This is apparently motivated by a sinister intention to justify their moves of chemical warfare and do harm to fellow countrymen by fooling people into believing that the North is developing not only nuclear weapons but also biochemical weapons.

As for the South Korean rulers, they are criminals who joined the United States in dropping poison gas and germ bombs on the heads of fellow countrymen in the Korean war. They also zealously took part in the chemical warfare during the Vietnamese war. It is nobody's secret that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises staged in South Korea every year are mainly aimed at launching not only a nuclear war but a chemical warfare.

They would be well advised to act with discretion, clearly mindful that either nuclear war or chemical warfare will lead to the destruction of the "civilian regime."

If they act rashly in defiance of our warnings, they would face a stern judgement by history and destruction.

Envoy to PRC Supports Ministry Statement

SK0312105893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0905 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] A news conference was held at the DPRK Embassy in China on 1 December regarding the statement by a DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman. Reporters from Chinese papers, news agencies, and broadcasting services and correspondents from many countries participated in the news conference.

DPRK Ambassador Chu Chang-chun spoke at the news conference. Regarding the 29 November statement by the DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman, the ambassador said: At a time when the issue of holding the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks was put on the agenda, U.S. President Clinton and other U.S. officials recently made some remarks, which irritate [chaguk] us extremely and run counter to dialogue. He pointed out that this was a violent violation of the principle of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement and an act of betrayal of the dialogue.

He mentioned our proposal for the package deal method out of the desire to resolve the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula fundamentally on a fair and just basis. He said that this is a fair method wholly coinciding with the principle of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement because based on the method, the DPRK and the United States were to move at the same time after deciding what each side will do.

He continued:

If the United States tries to stifle [apsal] us, its dialogue partner, by forcing its unjust demands through pressure, it will be held responsible for the aftermath arising from its actions. Our people and the People's Army will never yield to anyone's pressure. When we declared our decision to withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], we were already prepared [kago] for all possible circumstances. We announced to the world that we were fully prepared to safeguard the country's sovereignty even in a worst situation like war.

If the United States truly wants to resolve the nuclear issue, it must sincerely accede to dialogue without further delay, instead of adhering to the method of pressure.

The South Korean authorities should act discreetly, being clearly aware that its disturbance of the DPRK-U.S. talks will only hasten its self-destruction.

We want a peaceful solution of the nuclear problem. However, if the United States finally says it will stop holding talks [hoedamul kumandugettamyon] after turning the principle of the DPRK-U.S. joint statement into nothing, we will no longer have to put up with the inconvenience of suspending the effectuation of our withdrawal from the NPT. He concluded that the solution of the nuclear problem of the Korean peninsula depends completely on whether the United States has the will to discard the policy of stifling Korea [tae choson apsal chongchaek].

He then answered questions from reporters.

KCNA: Foreign Media Denounces U.S. Pressure

SK0212104193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 2 Dec 93

["Nuclear Issue on Korean Peninsula Must Be Solved Through DPRK-U.S. Talks"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Foreign media denounced the moves of the United States and its followers to put pressure on the DPRK.

The Nepalese paper CHALPAL November 21 said that the statement of the first vice-minister of foreign affairs of the DPRK is entirely just because it demanded a principled solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula in accordance with the agreement with the United States, a party concerned. But the U.S. and the South Korean authorities are threatening the DPRK with joint military exercises while crying for pressure on the DPRK in the international arena.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula cannot be solved by any threat or pressure, but it must be solved through DPRK-U.S. talks.

National Radio of Guyana November 22 urged the United States to renounce its policy of antagonizing and stifling the DPRK and respond to the DPRK-proposed formula of package solution, saying that the United States is invariably seeking a political purpose of stifling the DPRK.

The Zairean paper ETINCELLE November 23 noted that the United States is urging the DPRK to accept "overall inspection" by the International Atomic Energy Agency as a precondition for the opening of the third round of DPRK-U.S. talks, but the United States has lost the face to demand North Korea's return to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

North Claims South Developing Nuclear Weapons

SK0312104793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0835 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Unattributed talk: "The Puppets Maneuver To Develop Nuclear Weapons, Which Is Being Committed With Madness"]

[Text] The South Korean authorities are all the more madly running amok in developing nuclear weapons. A good example of this is that recently the South Korean authorities concluded a contract with a British nuclear fuel company to buy plutonium on a large scale.

In this connection, the British side is making excuses by saying that because plutonium was supplied to South Korea in the form of an oxide fuel, which is a nuclear [word indistinct] mixed with uranium, it will be difficult to extract plutonium from the oxide fuel. Nevertheless, nuclear experts are saying South Korea can easily extract plutonium from the oxide fuel.

The South Korean authorities themselves are recognizing this, and are openly babbling that they will extract plutonium from the nuclear fuel from Great Britain to take measures against the so-called North's nuclear development.

It has already been known that the South Korean authorities had dragged in (moax), which is a mixed oxide of plutonium and uranium, from Great Britain. However, they had never openly babbled before as now that they will extract plutonium from nuclear fuel by finding fault with North's nonexistent nuclear development. This is in reality the same as an open proclamation to accelerate the development of nuclear weapons on a full-scale. This can by no means be overlooked.

The past rulers of South Korea changed South Korea into the largest nuclear advance base of the Far East by deploying some 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons into South Korea. They even secretly accelerated the development of nuclear weapons. This is a widely disclosed fact.

The problem is that South Korea's criminal maneuver to develop nuclear weapons is being committed all the more madly by the current regime professing to be a civilian regime, when compared with the former military dictatorial regime.

Currently in South Korea there is an enormous amount of spent fuel [sayonghu naengyollyo], which contains about 10 tonnes of plutonium. In the next several years, it is expected this will increase to an enormous amount, of which it will be possible to extract about 24 tonnes of plutonium.

It is not a coincidence for (David Kaye), who is leading an international group to check nuclear programs in Iraq, to warn that South Korea is a very dangerous country that has sufficient nuclear fuel to produce first-class nuclear weapons.

The South Korean authorities, sitting on top of the outside force's nuclear weapons storage house, are accelerating the development of their own nuclear weapons. However, they are spreading rumors that we are developing nuclear weapons. This is all the more unforgivable.

Slanderous propaganda cannot work in today's bright world. The South Korean rulers' gibberish about the suspicions of the North's nuclear development or nuclear threats is mere sophism designed to conceal their dirty colors—without being satisfied by the fact that they have turned South Korea into the largest forward nuclear base in the Far East—and are frantically trying to inflict a nuclear catastrophe on the fellow countrymen by even developing their own nuclear weapons.

We are making every sincere effort to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone. On the contrary, the South Korean authorities, without being satisfied by the fact that they have turned all of South Korea into a nuclear weapons storage house of the United States, are frantically bringing in plutonium from foreign countries to develop nuclear weapons. Therefore, people clearly see who is committing the crime of developing nuclear weapons, which will cause national annihilation.

No matter what sophism and slanderous propaganda they may resort to, the South Korean rulers cannot conceal their dirty colors as servants and nuclear war maniacs who are pulling the outside force's cart of nuclear war.

The South Korean authorities had better clearly know their maneuvers to develop nuclear weapons will lead to shame and self-destruction.

Instead of becoming an accomplice in the criminal effort to develop nuclear weapons by supplying plutonium to South Korea, Britain must do something beneficial for peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification.

North Demands Return of Fishing Boat in South

SK0312075793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0730 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] A long-net fishing boat, No. Suso 6963, of the Wonsan Fisheries Office was wrecked while fishing in the sea off Kosong and drifted into the South Korean sea zone. Four fishermen are aboard the fishing boat. The South Korean authorities should return our fishermen and the peaceful fishing boat to us at an early date based on the principle of compatriotic love and humanitarianism.

ROK Religious Groups Oppose Rice Market Opening

SK0212104093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—2,000 members of 17 religious organisations including the National Council of Clergymen for Justice and Peace of South Korea published an emergency declaration on November 29 against the authorities' plan to open the rice market, a Seoul-based radio reported.

They denounced this plan as one trampling down the farmers who feel sad about the crop failure.

They vowed to expand the struggle against the agro-market opening of the authorities, irrespective of region and sect.

South's Protests on Opening Rice Market Noted

SK0212045793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Protests of South Korean farmers against the rice market opening are gaining in scope, a radio report from Seoul said.

The Poryong County Peasant Association in South Chungchong Province under the National Federation of Peasant Associations (Chonnong) piled up sheaves of rice in front of the "county" and Myon offices and staged a demonstration on November 30 and the South Kyongsang and South Cholla provincial branches of Chonnong separately held rallies in their districts to express indignation.

More than 1,000 farmers of the South Kyongsang Provincial branch of the National Federation of Heirs to Peasants and Fishermen heaped up sheaves of rice on the plaza of Masan railway station that day and held a rally and demonstration.

Farmers affiliated with the Naju Peasant Association in South Cholla Province piled up more than 30 straw bags of rice at a market in the city and set fire to them in token of their protest, and Pae Chong-yol, a former chairman of Chonnong, and members of the South Kyongsang

Provincial branch of the National Federation of Heirs to Peasants and Fishermen went on an indefinite hunger strike.

And students under the Kwangju-South Cholla Provincial Federation of General Student Councils including those of Chonnam University formed a "measure group for saving our rice" and joined farmers in their protests on December 1. The National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification (Chongukyonhap) declared that all its branches would launch into wholesale street demonstrations and other protests.

Foreign Groups Urge Repatriation of Prisoners

SK0312111593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—Organisations of different countries called for the return of old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, long-term prisoners in South Korea who refused to be converted after being taken prisoners in the Korean War (June 1950-July 1953).

The Mozambican Committee for Friendship with the People of the DPRK in a letter dated November 26 to the South Korean Red Cross branded the refusal to return the POWs to their home towns for the mere reason that they refused to be converted as an inhumanitarian act and a wanton violation of human rights.

It warned that the South Korean authorities must know clearly that if they do not send home old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, POWs, they would meet with curses and condemnations from the world people. They should "respect human rights" in deeds, not in words, it stressed.

The France-Korea Friendship Association in a letter to the South Korean Red Cross November 23 charged that the South Korean authorities detained old men Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan in South Korean prison for a long time on groundless charges, and that is a crude breach of the Korean Armistice Agreement. It urged the South Korean Red Cross to take all appropriate steps for the solution of the problem.

The Youth Union of Tanzania in a statement November 12 called on the international community to put pressure on the South Korean "regime" to return Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan to the Northern half of Korea.

South Koreans Said To Praise Tomb of Tangun

SK0212102593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Social scientists and people of South Korea say the disinterment of the Tomb of Tangun, a historical heritage, by scholars of the Northern half of the country led to a great discovery adding shine to the long history of the nation spanning five thousand years.

A university professor in Seoul said: "It is a great luck without parallel and an auspicious event for our historians in view of historical establishment that Tangun described so far as a mythical and legendary being in history has been proved scientifically to have been a real person."

A dissident surnamed Yi said: "The Japanese imperialists left no stone unturned in their efforts to obliterate the historical fact about Tangun in order to distort the origin of the Korean nation. But, historians of the North discovered the Tomb of Tangun and proved that Tangun was a real person and the founder of Kojoson (ancient Korea), thus confirming that the Korean nation is a homogeneous nation with a long history and a brilliant culture."

A newspaper reporter in Seoul said: "Historians of the North disinterred the Tomb of Tangun and proved with historical relics and facts that Tangun was a real person. This is a discovery of historical importance and a great pride and joy of our nation."

ROK Farmers Said To Praise Farming in North

SK0212110[illegible]93 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Reverence for the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is growing deeper among the South Korean people.

A farmer surnamed Pak in Uljin County, North Kyongsang Province, said when his colleague Kim deplored the worst crop failure this year:

"It is said that the North has reaped bumper crops this year despite the whimsical weather. I think it is a fruition of the chuche method of farming created by President Kim Il-song and Mr. Kim Chong-il and their benevolent politics. In this sense, we cannot ascribe the crop failure in this Southern land this year wholly to heaven."

Pak denounced the authorities' anti-popular policy of agriculture.

Hearing his words, an expert in agricultural economics surnamed Yi who was born in that village said:

"Rich crops visit the North every year because President Kim Il-song and Mr. Kim Chong-il enforce the chuche-based policy of agriculture, unique in the world.

"The president initiated the slogan 'Rice is socialism' and enforces the agriculture-first policy.

"The chuche-based policy of agriculture enforced by President Kim Il-song and Mr. Kim Chong-il is the [words indistinct] in the world, a benevolent policy and a policy for the future of mankind."

Deeply moved by his words, the farmers wished they could live in a society like the North at an early date.

Secretary Hwang Meets With Chinese Ambassador

SK0212114893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a talk with Qiao Zonghuai, Chinese ambassador to Korea, who paid a courtesy call on him.

Daily Says Cuban Army Ready 'To Smash' Enemy

SK0212100993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1001 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—The Revolutionary Army of Cuba now is armed with powerful sophisticated military equipment and up-to-date technologies and in full readiness to smash the enemy whenever and wherever he may attack, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today dedicated to the day of Revolutionary Army of Cuba.

The military exercises held in Cuba this year demonstrated the indestructible unity and cohesion and fighting capacity of the Cuban people who are firmly rallied around the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro, the article says.

It goes on:

Comrade Fidel Castro said one should not depend on anybody for defence and the people should rely only on their own strength, noting that the motherland and the revolution, independence, freedom and dignity are unthinkable apart from defence.

Invincible is the "island of revolution" in which the Revolutionary Army and people of Cuba stand guard firmly.

Defense Minister Greets Cuban Counterpart

SK0312111693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—Marshal O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to Raul Castro Ruz, minister of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the landing of the "Granma" and Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The message expressed the conviction that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two Armies will, in the future, too, continue to strengthen and develop, and wishes him greater success in his responsible work for the stability of the country and increase of defence capacities.

Military Officials Attend Cuban Party

SK0312044293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—Arnaldo Fernandes Rodriguez, military attache of the Cuban Embassy here, arranged a cocktail party Thursday on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces day.

Invited there were Vice-Marshal Kim Kwang-chin, General Cho Myong-nok, General Chon Chae-son, Lieutenant General Pak Chae-kyong and other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army and officials concerned.

Foreign diplomatic envoys and military attaches here were present on invitation.

Cuban Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega and embassy officials were on hand.

Speeches were made at the cocktail party.

Delegation Ends India Visit, Arrives in Nepal

SK0212095993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] The Korean Social Democratic Party delegation led by its Central Committee Chairman Kim Pyong-sik, arrived in Nepal on 24 November. Man Mohan Adhikary, chairman of finance committee of Nepali Congress Party and chairman of the Central Committee of the United Nepal Communist Party; Narayan Man Bijukchhe, chairman of the Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party; other functionaries concerned; the DPRK ambassador to Nepal, and employees of the DPRK Embassy to Nepal, welcomed the delegation at the airport.

After winding up its visit to India, the delegation left New Delhi on 24 November. (Karif Charliha), foreign affairs mediator of the Indian Congress-I Party; other functionaries concerned; and the DPRK charge d'affaires ad interim to India bid the delegation farewell at the airport. While in India, the delegation laid wreaths at the tombs of Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi. The delegation also met with R.L. Bhatia, former general secretary of the Indian Gandhi People's Congress Party and minister of state for foreign affairs; Shivraj Patil, speaker of the House of the People; and Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, minister of state for Prime Ministers Office, and held talks.

Nepal Workers Party Delegation Leaves 27 Nov

SK0212103793 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 27 Nov 93

[Text] The Nepal Workers' and Peasants' Party functionaries delegation led by Secretary Prem Suwal, returned home by plane on 27 November. Kim Yang-kon, deputy director of a department of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, bid the delegation farewell at the airport.

Nepalese Writer 'Impressed' by Communist Traits

SK0212103893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 2 Dec 93

["Beautiful Communist Traits in Bloom in Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Nepalese writer Harihar Raj Jochi told reporters here on November 28 that during his stay in Korea he was most deeply impressed by the beautiful communist traits of chuche-type people which are brought into bloom like a legend under the politics of love and trust in the people shaped by the great leader President Kim Il-song and the illustrious leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He said:

When one speaks of the beautiful communist traits in Korea one must emphasize first of all the noble spiritual world of the people of this country who ardently follow, worship and defend with their lives their great leader and dear leader.

All people, men and women, young and old, including ordinary workers, peasants and soldiers assume the duty of sentries guarding the statues of the great leader President Kim Il-song, become loyal subjects safeguarding portraits of the great leader and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il by displaying unexampled self-sacrificing spirit and heroism and volunteer to work at coal and ore mines, farms and grand construction sites in groups or with their whole families, upholding the intention of the party.

I have been to capitalist countries and former socialist countries, but I have never seen such girls who take care of orphans with maternal care and look after lonely old people with filial piety, such young people who save children from drowning at the cost of their lives, such girls marrying disabled soldiers who were wounded while on duty to defend the motherland and such true-hearted people who dedicate their skin, blood and bones to patients as in Korea.

The beautiful deeds and traits in Korea are flourishing under the wise guidance of the illustrious leader.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, having inherited the popular traits of the great leader, is making beautiful communist traits overflow the society with his politics of love for the people. He is a great statesman produced by the people and a tender-hearted teacher and father of the people.

Meeting in Pyongyang Marks Laos National Day

SK0212043293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0411 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—A meeting commemorating the 18th anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic was held here Wednesday.

Present at the meeting were Yi Chol-pong, minister of city management and chairman of the Korea-Laos Friendship Association, Chon Yon-ok, vice-chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, officials concerned and working people in the city.

A speech was made at the meeting.

After the meeting the participants saw a Lao documentary film.

Papers Mark Lao National Day

SK0212102793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 18th anniversary of the founding of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The foundation of the Republic was a historical event of great significance in the life of the Lao people, a signed article of MINJU CHOSON says, and continues:

After the foundation of the Republic, the Lao people have made a great advance in the efforts to clear away the consequences of the colonial rule, defend the revolutionary gains and build an independent new society.

Pursuing a policy of peace, independence, friendship, cooperation and non-alignment externally, Laos is striving to develop relations with other countries.

The peoples of Korea and Laos established bond of friendship long ago and have strengthened and developed it.

The Korean people believe that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Laos will further develop in future.

Extending warm congratulations to the Lao people on the anniversary, the Korean people sincerely wish them greater success in their drive to carry out the resolution of the fifth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

Chairman of Koreans in Russia Meets Yi In-mo

SK0212043893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Yi Tong-chol, chairman of the Federation of Koreans in Russia for Reunification, met Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will and former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, in Pyongyang on December 1.

Noting that Yi In-mo bravely fought as a soldier with indomitable will in prison for 34 years, the chairman said this is the great pride to the overseas Koreans.

He said he was glad to see Yi In-mo having recovered his health in the bosom of the Fatherland, the bosom of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He pointed out he would devote his all to accelerating the cause of national reunification, upholding the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation.

Yi In-mo expressed his hope that overseas Koreans would stubbornly struggle for national reunification in the spirit of the Korean nation.

Norwegian Ambassador Pays 'Farewell Call'

SK0312112193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok met and had a talk with Jan Tore Holvik, ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Korea, who paid a farewell call on him at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present on the occasion was Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Yi In-kyu.

Kim Yong-nam, vice-premier and foreign minister, and Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, separately met and had a talk with the ambassador today.

Greetings Sent to New British Communist Party

SK0312111793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Friday sent a message of greetings to the 9th Congress of the New Communist Party of Great Britain.

The message expressed the conviction that the relations between the Workers' Party of Korea and the New Communist Party of Great Britain will grow stronger and develop in the common struggle to defend the cause of socialism against imperialism, and wished the congress big success in its work.

More on Proceedings at 'Frontrankers' Meeting

Participants Relate Experiences

SK0212110693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—Many people have taken floor at the national meeting of frontrankers in beautiful communist traits now being held here. They have introduced many emotional stories telling that they, true to the noble idea of the Workers' Party of Korea that those who do not love human beings cannot make the revolution, have forged genuine relations with people on the basis of comradeship and taken care of each other like the same flesh and blood, making the whole country replete with human love.

Pyo Il-sok, a lorry driver of the Musan mining complex, vowed to work at the mine generation after generation with the unshakable faith and will to uphold the party and defend socialism with increased iron ore production.

He and his six brothers who had lived in Chongjin went to the mine and became lorry drivers. They fulfilled their yearly assignments before July 27, the day of the victory in the war.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a simple letter sent by them reflecting their resolution of loyalty to work at the mine generation after generation, and placed his great trust in them, calling them comrades and reliable sons of the country.

Wi Chae-sang, a worker of the youth branch mine of the Komdok mining complex, got married with a disabled woman.

His wife, Kim Pong-nam, lost her both legs at the age of 19 in an accident while working as an electric car driver. Resolved to continue working at the mine, she served as an accountant of a pit. Wi Chae-sang is now enjoying the life as her genuine comrade.

Kwon Sun-hui residing in Pyongyang had actively helped her husband, a cripple on sickbed, in his creative activities for 30 odd years.

Her husband, Kim Si-kwon, lived a brilliant life as a disabled soldier-turned poet loved by the people, a "Kim Il-song prize" winner and labor hero.

When her husband was alive, Kwon Sun-hui travelled different parts of the country with him to conduct political activities and agitation for increased production at units of the Korean People's Army and socialist construction sites.

Mun Chong-sop, head of a fleet of fishing boats of the Unjon fishery station, North Pyongan Province, saved a daughter of his revolutionary comrade first when she and his daughter were drowned. so, he lost his daughter.

Informed of this fact, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent him a precious gift, and the great leader President Kim Il-song gave a high appraisal of Mun's deed in his reminiscences.

Son Suk-chin of the Kosan County People's Hospital in Kangwon Province has worked as a nurse for more than 30 years from the age of 18. In this period she donated seven liters of her blood to patients on some 40 occasions and, when a patient was almost choked with a blood clot sticking in his throat, she sucked it up with her mouth to save him. She also left her two daughters in her parents' care and adopted and brought up some ten orphaned children who now serve in the People's Army or work in social fields.

Among the speakers were Hwang Yong-chun, an officer of the Korean People's Army who became a hero of the Republic while serving in the Army for 20 years, not married still at the age of 37, only devoting his all to uphold the party's cause with loyalty and filial piety, with the gun of revolution taken firmly in his hands, and Kim Chang-ha, a woman in Kaesong municipality called a "soldiers' sister" among soldiers as she had distinguished herself in aiding the People's Army over the past 15 years.

Chong Myong-il, a worker of the Uiju County urban management office in North Pyongan Province, brought six old women without children from a home for the aged and has taken care of them.

Choe Kum-hwa living in Mangyongdae district, Pyongyang, has worked as a popular cobbler from her girlhood, not minding whether it is a good, or bad job.

Kim Ki-chon residing in Pongsan County, North Hwanghae Province, has annually brought more land under cultivation and planted and grown food grain over the past 20 years, thus donating 14.5 tons of grain to the country out of patriotism and nearly four hectares of land to a farm.

Choe Chong-hak, a member of the delegation of model functionaries of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), speaking at the meeting, introduced beautiful traits displayed among Chongnyon officials and Koreans in Japan in the course of carrying out the patriotic cause with intense loyalty to the great leader and the dear leader.

Kim Chong-il Sends Birthday Tables

SK0312043793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0406 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent birthday tables including seventieth and sixtieth birthday tables Thursday to 116 participants in the national meeting of frontrankers in beautiful communist traits, who were spending significant days in Pyongyang.

Among the beneficiaries were workers, peasants, intellectuals and other party members and working people who had devotedly worked for the society and the collective, for the country and the people and moved people by constantly displaying beautiful communist traits and deeds with noble comradely love and revolutionary sense of obligation throughout the country in the past.

The recipients of the benevolent tables firmly resolved to exalt their honor as frontrankers in communist traits the party put to the fore by doing a lot of good things for the society and the collective, for the country and the people in the future, too, and thus actively contribute to bringing the advantages and invincible vitality of the anthropocentric Korean-style socialism into full play.

Participant's Speeches Cited

SK0312111393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—Beautiful deeds fully displayed in the society of Korea which has turned into a big harmonious family closely united around the party and the leader were topics of the speeches made by participants in the national meeting of frontrankers in beautiful communist traits.

Kim Myong-il, head of a tunneling workteam of pit no. 2 of the Tokchon coal mine under the Tokchon district coal mining complex, built up a communist collective with twenty-two coal miners of different backgrounds who are closely united as comrades and revolutionized [as received] and they fulfilled the yearly coal production plan far ahead of schedule.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il praised their deed as a patriotic deed reminding one of the indomitable fighting spirit which had been displayed by the valiant fighters on Hill 1211 (a hill of great strategic importance which officers and men of the Korean People's Army defended at the cost of their blood during the fatherland liberation war), and saw to it that their deed was widely introduced and propagandized, and brought Kim Myong-il to the fore as a model of coal miners in the 1990s.

Labour hero Yu Son-hwan, an officer of the Korean People's Army, saved five of his men from the death's door. When the pit 170 metres deep was inundated in an accident he made them climb onto an arch of the pit ceiling and hold on for nine days, displaying indomitable will and comradeship.

The husband of Pak Chang-son, a workforce administrator of the Chongjin passenger train corps, died at the age of 30 after saving ten children from drowning in the sea in July last year.

Informed of this, Comrade Kim Chong-il took care that the title of labour hero was awarded to him.

So Sang-po, an advisor-engineer of the Huichon locomotive corps, enjoys respect of the people as the admirable father of "a family of disabled soldiers" as he gave his four daughters in marriage to disabled soldiers.

Comrade Kim Chong-il made the locomotive engineer known to the whole country as an unassuming man of meritorious service, earnestly saying it is by no means easy to marry one's four daughters to disabled soldiers.

Yi Myong-ok, a caretaker of Pyongyang Koryo Hotel, and other women returned to foreigners and Koreans from overseas a large sum of money they found in hotel rooms, cinema halls, etc.

A hotel woman found a wallet containing much foreign currencies while rearranging the room where a delegation from Japan had put up, when the delegation had already departed for home, and remitted the money to the owner by international air mail.

Kim Chong-suk, a Japanese woman who is serving as a caretaker of the "room for the study of the revolutionary idea of Comrade Kim Il- song" in Wonsan, inspired builders at grand socialist construction sites together with other Japanese women in the city to repay, if only a little, the great solicitude of Comrade Kim Chong-il who looks after with paternal affection the Japanese women who came to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with their Korean husbands.

An Kwang-nam, 34, a worker at the repair and maintenance shop of the Kangso district coal mining complex, is bringing up 18 orphans like his own children.

Comrade Kim Chong-il placed his deep trust in him calling him an admirable man and said that the party would be their parents.

Yi Sun-sil, chairman of the Primary Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea (LSWYK) of the Hoeryong paper mill, and three other girls whom Comrade Kim Chong-il highly praised as admirable girls got married to disabled soldiers on the holiday of February.

Those disabled soldiers have become able to walk thanks to the utmost care of the medical workers of the North Hamgyong provincial people's hospital and their wives.

Chang Sa-hong, secretary of the primary party committee of the general bureau of western railways, made the party organization bring up children who lost their parents in an accident. He is called "uncle secretary" and "father" by them.

Sin Ung-kol, secretary of the Yongsong-ri Party Committee of Kopung County, Chagang Province, who had worked in the Party Committee of the Academy of Sciences returned to his home village in a mountainous area to build it up into a place good to live in.

Kim Chae-pong, chairman of the Kangnyong County Administrative and Economic Committee of South Hwanghae Province, has made his wife a procurement worker and his son heated floor repairman to work as true servants of the people.

Chang Kwan-sun, a teacher of the Sijung Primary School, Sijung County, Chagang Province, is a genuine educator who helped crippled children study and enabled them to walk.

Hwang Pi-pong, a worker of the Nahung washing machine factory, Niwon County, South Hamgyong Province, is supporting the parents of his comrade who died while serving in the People's Army with him.

Kim Sang-chong, a security officer of the Kumya County Security Department, South Hamgyong Province, saved 17 people from a flood.

Choe Chang-ae is the chairman of the Primary Committee of the LSWYK of the youth road cleaning team of the Pyongchon district city facilities management office, Pyongyang, made up of girls who volunteered to be road cleaners collectively after graduatpng from the senior middle school.

The speakers were unanimous in stressing that they could fully display the beautiful communist traits as the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il have reared all of them as great people with noble ideology and spirit and with a strong sense of morality and obligation with their great anthropocentric idea, great politics of human love and the great leadership valuing people most.

Meeting Closes 2 Dec

SK0212115693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1052 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 2 (KCNA)—The national meeting of frontrankers in beautiful communist traits which opened here on November [as received] 1 with a large attendance closed Thursday after successfully concluding its work.

Introduced at the meeting were noble virtues and deeds of many frontrankers in beautiful communist traits who are implementing the party's lines and policies and devoting their all to the collective and comrades, not seeking any fame or reward, with unfailing loyalty to the party and the leader, spirit of devoted service for the country and people and fervent comradeship and revolutionary sense of obligation.

It was stressed unanimously at the meeting that many beautiful communist traits have been highly displayed among the Korean working people and the number of frontrankers who live and work in a communistic manner is steadily increasing and that is a great victory of the chuche idea of the party and its politics of love and trust and a brilliant fruition of its policy of education by positive examples.

The meeting fully demonstrated the noble ideological and moral traits of the Korean people and incomparable advantages of the Korean-style socialist system, recording a shining chapter in the proud annals of the Korean revolution and marking an occasion of a new turn in defending and exalting socialism.

It adopted a letter of pledge to the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

NODONG SINMUN Editorial

SK0312064993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[NODONG SINMUN 1 December editorial: "We Warmly Congratulate the National Meeting of Frontrankers of Laudable Communist Virtue"]

[Text] The national meeting of frontrankers of [songuja] laudable communist virtue is being held today at a time when all people vigorously conduct a struggle to resolutely safeguard, adhere to, and to further glorify socialism of our own style by firmly uniting around the party and the leader.

Frontrankers of laudable communist virtue, who are widely praised and respected by our people, are true loyalists who are conducting a struggle by cherishing loyalty to the party and the leader as a firm faith or an exalted revolutionary morality. They are true patriots who have a firm faith in socialism with a thorough spirit of loving their fatherland. Also, they are a model of the communist-oriented human beings in our times who contribute everything to a society, a group, and comrades.

Frontrankers of laudable communist virtue have displayed a good example and have greatly contributed to fortifying the ideological, spiritual, and moral base of our society as firm as rock by glorifying the chuche socialist fatherland, thus upholding the leadership of the party.

All party members and working people are now pleased with the historic meeting held by frontrankers of laudable communist virtue, who are standard-bearers and vanguard fighters of the spirit of the times and are warmly greeting it.

The national meeting of frontrankers of laudable communist virtue is a historic meeting to discuss the tasks to consolidate the proud success made in the work of fostering chuche-oriented communist human beings and to further deepen and develop the work at a higher level in conformity with the demands of the developing realities under the wise leadership of our party.

The new bud of laudable communist virtue, which has taken root deep in the life of our people, has been very early sprouted during the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle under the leadership of the great leader. This great tradition has been constantly expanded and developed by the energetic leadership of our party who presented a creative policy of remolding men and who has brilliantly carried it out at every time and stage of the revolution and construction.

Today our society is turned into a large and harmonious family which is firmly united around the party and the leader. Also, frontrankers of laudable communist virtue are standing at the head of the sacred behaviors which are being displayed by our people more highly.

The national meeting of frontrankers of laudable communist virtue, which is being held amid a great expectation and special interest of our party and people, is of great historic significance for a struggle to raise the spiritual and moral ethos of our people at a new higher level and to endlessly safeguard, adhere to, and consummate the socialism of our own style with the might of single-hearted unity.

Also, the national meeting of frontrankers of laudable communist virtue is, first of all, a meeting of victors who vigorously display the superiority of invincibility of the socialism of our own style which is endlessly ever-victories under the banner of the great chuche idea.

The acute struggle between socialism and capitalism is a political and ideological confrontation as well as a serious struggle in the fields of spirit, morality, and life of human beings.

The rotten and defeated enemy—which was already destroyed and rejected by history—is revived today in both the socialist countries and the countries where socialism is returned. Because of this, the people who aspire for beauty and nobleness feel uneasy and suffer pains.

A great number of the laudable communist virtues are being glorified in our country under the wise leadership of the party and the leader. The ranks of frontrankers of laudable communist virtue, who cherished a sense of chuche value and had a view of revolutionary life, are being constantly increased there as well.

The national meeting will clearly show how great and exalted the ideological and spiritual world of our people—who are firmly armed with a great chuche idea and who are building the most superior popular mass-centered socialism—and their moral ethos are.

With the upcoming meeting as an occasion, the greatness of the chuche idea and the correctness and invincible vitality of the most scientific, active, and ideal human remolding policy of our party will be demonstrated to the whole world. Thus, the meeting will be brilliantly recorded in the proud chronicle of our fatherland as a meeting of the victory of our party's great communist human remolding ideology and as a significant meeting which vigorously demonstrates the superiority and invincibility of socialism of our own style. The meeting will also be a historic meeting which more firmly deepens the ideological, mental, and moral foundation of socialism of our own style and which effects a revolutionary turn in the struggle to victoriously advance and consummate to the end the chuche revolutionary cause.

The invincibility of socialism of our own style and its bright and promising future lie in the solidness of its ideological, mental, and moral foundation and in the singlehearted unity in which all the people are firmly rallied around the party and the leader [suryong].

Through the meeting, the examples and feats performed by frontrankers in laudable communist traits will be generalized and the movement to learn after them will be widespread in the society. Thus our people ideological, mental, and moral features will be promoted onto a new high stage and the might of our revolutionary ranks' singlehearted unity will be further strengthened.

By heightening surging political enthusiasm of devoting one's all for the party, the revolution, a society, a group, and comrades among all party members and working people, as frontrankers in laudable communist traits did, mass heroism will be brought into full play in socialist construction, and unforeseen miracles and feats will be ceaselessly created.

The meeting of frontrankers in laudable communist traits gives a great inspiration to the people who want to lead a dignified and worthwhile life in socialist society with the most superior idea and morality and deals a heavy blow at imperialists and all sorts of reactionaries who are preaching corrupt bourgeois view of value and morality which is based on egoism.

The meeting will clearly show no matter how imperialists intensify anti-socialist ideological and cultural offensive and viciously maneuver to infiltrate bourgeois life style, they can never harm brilliant mental and moral features of our people, who live as members of a large, harmonious family by upholding the great leader [suryong] as their father.

The National Meeting of Frontrankers in Laudable Communist Traits is a proud meeting which can only be opened in our chuche socialist fatherland where the politics of warm love and trust for the people are being rendered by the great leader [suryong] and the great leader [yongdoja] and where the most superior ideology and morality prevails.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We can say that love and trust for the revolutionary comrades and people constitute the basic characteristics of Comrade Kim Chong-il's politics. His politics of love and trust have given birth to loyalty and filial duty among our party members and working people; brought into full play beautiful communist virtues throughout the country; and turned the whole society into a large, harmonious family firmly united on the collectivist principle of "One for All, All for One.

The noble mental and moral features of the people doing the revolution can by no means achieved by itself. They can only be achieved and cherished by the great leader [suryong] and the great leader [yongdoja] who lead the revolution to the brilliant success by awakening and organizing the popular masses with the most superior idea and noble benevolence.

It is entirely the noble fruition of the politics of love and trust of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il that our society has turned into a great revolutionary family and beautiful communist traits are in full bloom among our people.

The dear comrade leader has, for the first time, expounded the chuche outlook on life that the one's character and value are determined by the idea, and the chuche outlook on idea that the idea determines everything. In addition, he has wisely led the work to promote our people's ideological and mental world onto a new high stage in conformity with demands of practically carrying out the revolution in which modelling the whole society after the chuche idea has become an urgent task.

The dear comrade leader has given the top priority to the ideological indoctrination work and made sure that the policy on education by positive influence be carried out consistently. He has closely united all the people, including working people, farmers, and intellectuals, in one through the politics of people and unity, and has given details on generalizing exemplary deeds, rejoicing over even a small communist virtue.

Truly, no words can fully praise the immortal achievements of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who has built the great flower garden of communist virtues on this land and brought up the excellent people with the great idea centered on human beings, the noble politics of love for human beings, and the great leadership centered on the popular masses.

Today, the participants of the meeting and the people call our times where communist virtues fully bloom as the era of the Workers' Party of Korea by connecting it with the name of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, and make firm resolve to endlessly elucidate socialism of our own style under the leadership of the dear comrade leader.

Today, before us lie formidable tasks of ardently adhering to and completing socialism of our own style, which was set forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and is illuminated by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, with the might of singlehearted unity. In order to brilliantly carry out the noble tasks, which the times and history has entrusted, we should further consolidate our revolutionary ranks as firm as a rock and bring communist virtues into full play throughout society.

All the people, like frontrankers in communist virtues who carry out communist virtues as if it were their habits, should endlessly create beautiful virtues with firm confidence and clean revolutionary conscience, and herein lies the road of strengthening the might of socialism of our own style and fully displaying its superiority.

All the party members and working people should, above all, firmly arm themselves with revolutionary outlook on the leader [suryong]. The revolutionary outlook on the leader is the foundation which gives birth to the true sense of communist virtues among the people. Without being faithful to their leader [suryong] and their leader [yongdoja] who lead them to enjoy noble political and worthwhile life, duty, fidelity, and noble character of revolutionary fighter cannot be discussed.

All deeds brought into full play by frontrankers in communist virtues are beautiful and noble because they stem from endless loyalty to the leader [yongdoja]. The party members and working people should cherish deep in their hearts great national dignity and pride of living and doing the revolution by upholding the great leader [suryong] and the great leader [yongdoja]. In addition, all of their thinking and practice should be consistent with endless loyalty to the party and the leader [suryong].

We should, like frontrankers in communist virtues, give top priority to the high dignity of the great leader [suryong] and the dear comrade leader in any place and any time; become loyalists and filial sons and daughters who display indomitable revolutionary spirit; and create beautiful virtues on the road of embodying the intent of party and the leader.

Single-hearted unity is the decisive guarantee for victory of our revolution and the firm foundation which enables laudable communist traits to effloresce in our society more brilliantly. All party members and the working people should think and act only according to the party's ideological will under the slogan, "What the party decides we will do" and see to it that our chuche-oriented ideology and morality are firmly prevalent in our society forever. All party members and the working people should also have thorough faith in socialism and devote their all to the socialist fatherland's grandeur and prosperity.

We should cherish in our hearts the absolute truth that socialism is our people's living and life, should make socialism the only just ideal and goal of our life and struggle, should become thorough believers in socialism, and thorough protectors and faithful builders of socialism.

To further exalt laudable communist traits in our society, it is important for party members and the working people to constantly cultivate themselves in a revolutionary manner. For the Korean revolutionaries who should consummate to the end the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style under the leadership of the party and the leader [suryong], there should be neither self- admiration nor satisfaction in their ideological training and mental and moral cultivation.

All of those genuine human beings who are exalting laudable communist traits today are precisely those who have been cultivated at a high level ideologically, mentally, and morally. We should highly value the beatiful and laudable deeds displayed by the frontrankers of laudable communist traits and should make constant efforts to raise themselves to the lofty plane of their mental world.

We should always make a strong demand and reflect on and constantly temper ourselves, comparing to the outstanding ideological and mental world of frontrankers of laudable communist traits. We should also not allow self-admiration and stalemate in our ideological life, organizational life, and in the practice of the revolution. Thus, we should see to it that impressive deeds which stir up the times and enjoy admiration from people are enhanced in all places where our party members and the working people live and work.

Fostering all of our people into genuine communist revolutionaries of the chuche type by constantly increasing the ranks of frontrankers of laudable communist traits is precisely the firm and invariable determination of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Party organizations at all levels should concentrate great efforts on this work, upholding the dear comrade leader's intent.

Party organizations at all levels should more vigorously wage ideological indoctrination work to firmly prepare party members and the working people into genuine communist human beings.

In many of his classical works, including the works, "On firmly establishing a chuche-oriented view on the revolution" and "Let all of us live and struggle in a heroic way," the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il clearly elucidated all theoretical and practical problems arising in fostering people into the revolutionaries with thorough revolutionary view on the leader, view on the organization, view on morality, and view on life.

Party organizations at all levels should carry out the ideological indoctrination work to arm party members, the working people, and new generations with the ideology and theory of the dear comrade leader in a substantial manner so that they can become the creators of heroic exploits and noble and laudable traits in today's rewarding struggle.

Party organizations should properly carry out the work of actively finding the laudable communist traits displayed in their own sectors and units and of putting them at the forefront.

Socialism of our own style is a society where the great party's chuche-oriented communist human remoulding ideology has been extensively embodied and, as a result, brilliant victory has been achieved. It is also a most superior society where laudable communist traits are being exalted.

As long as there are the great leader [widaehan yongdoja], who has extraordinary wisdom, tested leadership ability, and noble virtue; the outstanding people who have been firmly armed with the chuche-oriented revolutionary view on life; and the large unit of frontrankers of laudable communist traits, our socialist fatherland will enjoy boundless grandeur and prosperity.

1994 Fruit Crops 30 Percent Above Last Year's

SK0212045693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0405 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 1 (KCNA)—A rich crop of fruits visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea this year, too.

According to data available, this year's fruit yield is 30 percent above last year's.

The Pyongyang fruit farm topped last year's output 60 percent and the Kwail County combined fruit farm produced 8,000 more tons of fruits than last year. The fruit yield of the state-run Pukchong fruit farm is 20 percent above its plan.

These results are attributable to the wise leadership of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Of great importance in the guidance of fruit-farming by President Kim Il-song is the Pukchong enlarged meeting of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. Over 30 years ago, he convened the historical Pukchong meeting and indicated a detailed orientation and way of developing the country's pomiculture. He has since given tireless on-the-spot guidance to put it into practice.

This year he visited the Pyongyang fruit farm and the Kwail County combined fruit farm and convened a consultative meeting of workers in the domain of fruit-farming, at which he gave teachings which would serve as a guideline in bringing a bumper fruit. It is thanks to his tireless guidance in fruit-growing that the area of orchards has been extended and their material and technical foundations have been consolidated.

The nation's area of orchards has more than doubled and the fruit output has grown 3.9 times as against the time of the Pukchong meeting. And the number of qualified pomiculturists increased 15.4 times and that of the assistant pomiculturists 12.3 times. This period has witnessed the appearance of many fruit farms including the Kwail County combined fruit farm with an area of more than 8,000 hectares and of over 80 cooperative farms with orchards ranging from 100 to 500 hectares.

In the last 20 years, the number of the tractors engaged in fruit growing increased 13 times, that of trucks two times and the amount of chemical fertilizers applied to each hectare of the fruit farms four times.

Strawberry, cherry, apricot, peach, apple, pear and other fruits are picked at the orchards from early spring till autumn.

Account Settlement Meetings Held on Farms

SK0312111293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 3 (KCNA)—Meetings for year-end account settlement and income distribution took place on cooperative farms in different parts of Korea.

They proudly summed up the yearly farming, an unusual bumper harvest reaped this year.

The Pungjong cooperative farm in Chungsan County produced more than 18,000 tons of grain with 8 tons of paddy rice and 10 tons of maize from each hectare on an average this year.

The Paeksok cooperative farm in Sinchon County produced 8.5 tons of rice and 9.2 tons of maize from each hectare on an average, overfulfiling its grain production plan.

The Sinha cooperative farm in Sangwon County carried out the state assignments for this year at 116.6 percent in grain, 102.3 percent in vegetable, 102.1 percent in meat and 118.9 percent in fruits. The Migok cooperative farm in Sariwon city, the Hadan cooperative farm in Pyongsong city, the Songgwan cooperative farm in Waudo district, Nampo municipality, the Nihyon and Changchon cooperative farms in Sadong district, Pyongyang, and other cooperative farms did farming well as demanded by the chuche method of farming, boosting per hectare grain yield markedly as compared with last year.

Much grain and cash were distributed to the farmers.

South Korea

Official Confirms North's Mobile Test Launch

SK0312032693 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 3 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] North Korea succeeded in test firing its 1,000 km-range Nodong-1 missile for the first time from a mobile launch pad carried by a motor vehicle around the end of last May, it was confirmed on 2 December. The 1,000 km-range Nodong-1 missile has so far been considered to be capable of being fired from a fixed launch pad.

This demonstrates significant improvement of the performance of the Nodong-1 since it has so far been known to be able to be fired only from a fixed launch pad, which is different from the Scud B and the improved model Scud B, with high mobility due to being carried by wheeled vehicles.

A high-ranking government intelligence official on 2 December said: The Nodong-1 missile succeeded in test firing for the first time from the missile test launch site in

Taepo-tong, Hwadae County, North Hamgyong Province, around the end of last May, hitting the target at a distance of 500 km, and this missile was fired from a launch pad aboard a mobile vehicle rather than from a fixed launch pad. This means that the intelligence authorities of the ROK and the United States will find it much more difficult to locate Nodong- 1 missiles because of their mobility.

U.S. IAEA Delegation To Issue Statement

SK0312073593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0706 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Washington, Dec. 2 [date as received] (YONHAP)—The U.S. delegation to the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] Board of Governor's meeting will issue a statement Friday [3 December] on the North Korean nuclear problem, according to the State Department.

Spokeswoman Christine Shelly said that IAEA Governor Nelson Sieverling will announce the statement.

When asked if the IAEA will declare the continuity of nuclear safeguards in North Korea broken, she said she could not rule it out.

The report of Hans Blix, director-general of the IAEA, to the IAEA Board of Governors' meeting on Thursday does not seem to have made particular comment on the issue of whether or not continuity of safeguards is broken, Shelly said.

First South Korean Elected to High IAEA Post

SK0212092393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0822 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—Chon Pung-il, a leading nuclear scientist, became the first South Korean elected to a high- level post with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday.

IAEA Director-General Hans Blix announced at the opening of the Board of Governors meeting in Vienna that Chon had been elected director of the Nuclear Power Division.

Chon graduated from Seoul National University and has a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University in the United States. He is deputy director of the atomic industry center of the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI).

He will be in charge of consultation and technical assistance to IAEA members on nuclear reactor construction, safety management, repair and cost analysis as well as running the power reactor information system, which covers over 420 reactors and 72 under construction.

Chon assumes the three-year post early next year.

Zbigniew Brzezinski Views Policy on Pyongyang

SK0312022493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0158 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Washington, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—Zbigniew Brzezinski, a former national security adviser, recommended Thursday [2 December] that President Bill Clinton's administration use the stick on Pyongyang in order to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

Describing North Korea as a government with "a propensity toward irrationality and violence," Brzezinski said the United States has to not only make some threats, but it has to take some actions to make these threats credible.

"I think we ought to proceed with urgent steps to reinforce our military capability in the area...to make it clear that if there is an initiation of hostilities by the North Koreans, the United States will respond immediately and with overwhelming force," he said.

"Secondly, we ought to make some initial steps towards implementation of the sanctions as to make them credible," he said.

Brzezinski, national security adviser to President Jimmy Carter, spoke Thursday at a luncheon given by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Law and National Security.

The real problem with a North Korean nuclear bomb is its impact on South Korea and Japan, he said.

"That is the serious problem, because it may destabilize Northeast Asia, push Japan into policies which we would like it not to pursue with other consequences for others," he said.

Moreover, the North Koreans, once they have the bomb, might do things that the United States would like them not to do, Brzezinski said.

"To deal with it, you cannot engage in simple and increasingly less and less credible threats, especially when your own record of threatening others and then not delivering on your threats is fairly visible to all," Brzezinski said.

"If we are going to approach them only with offers of carrots, their predisposition to have their cake and eat it too is going to be fortified," he said.

Report on 'North-South Secret Contact' in Beijing

SK0312034893 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 3 Dec 93 p 6

[By Chong Hae-yong from Washington]

[Text] It has been learned that North and South Korea, which have been making secret contacts to resolve the

North Korean nuclear issue, will have another contact in Beijing soon to seek ways in reaching the final solution of the issue.

It has also been learned that China was only involved in providing the opportunity for this secret contact to be held in Beijing, but will not participate in it.

According to a well-versed source in Washington, the ROK informed the United States at the ROK-U.S. summit held on 23 November that it would have a contact with North Korea in Beijing sooner or later and requested that the ROK exercise the right to make the final decision on the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise to leave room for North-South negotiations in the future. The ROK seems to have obtained agreement on this from the United States, the source said.

The source said that the ROK also informed the United States of its intention to make a breakthrough in solving the North Korean nuclear issue through the North-South secret contacts this year.

The source also said that there is a possibility that the two sides may have agreed at the secret contacts to make joint efforts on finding ways to solve the nuclear issue this year.

Official Denies Contacts

SK0312063293 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 3 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] On 3 December, Kim Sam-hun, head of the Foreign Ministry's ad hoc team dealing with the nuclear issue, commenting on the rumor on the secret inter-Korean contacts, said, "no secret contacts have been made for the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. North Korea has never made any contacts with us as to how it is formulating its position and when it will convey its position to the United States. We understand that there has been no contact between North Korea and the United States, either." He added, "Since the United States has precisely informed North Korea of its position and since North Korea is well aware of its own position, all we have to do for now is to wait for the North's response."

Minister Gives Conditions on North Nuclear Issue

SK0312053793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0525 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—The deadline on North Korea's nuclear problem will be determined by both technical and mood factors, and neither can wait much longer, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Friday.

North Korea has not yet responded with its answer after the Nov. 24 contact, where Washington repeated demands that Pyongyang talk with Seoul and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

While Seoul and Washington intend to wait for the response, "patience has its limits," Han told a press conference.

"North Korea does not have unlimited time," he said. "South Korea and the United States agreed that referring the issue to the United Nations Security Council is inevitable if dialogue fails."

Presidents Kim Yong-sam and Bill Clinton met last month and agreed on "thorough and broad" efforts in solving the nuclear issue.

"The two leaders did not prepare any new approach to the issue," he said.

Instead, they agreed that Washington is willing to engage in comprehensive discussion on all matters related to the nuclear problem once Pyongyang meets the two preconditions, he said.

Patience depends not only on technical factors, such as an IAEA declaration that its safeguards on North Korea are broken, but on the international mood, the foreign minister said.

"The deadline depends on South Korea-U.S. policy, the mood in the international community, especially among certain European countries, and the mood within the country," he said.

Red Cross Head Contacts Pyongyang for Talks

SK0312024193 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0210 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Kang Yong-hun, president of the ROK Red Cross Society, today sent a telephone message to Yi Song-ho, acting chairman of the North Korean Red Cross Central Committee, and urged him to resolve the issue of separated families by resuming at an early date the North-South Red Cross talks, which were suspended since the working- level contact on the visit of old parents was held in August 1992.

At the same time, President Kang stressed that, because of the nature of the issue, the ROK Red Cross is not in the position of interfering in the issue of the return of the remains of the People's Army in the POW camp in Koje Island, which the North Korean side demanded in a telephone message dated 24 November.

President Kang also said that as for the issue of repatriating Kim In-so and Ham Se-hwan, which North Korea raised in a telephone message sent on 14 October, they obtained the nationality of the ROK at their own will. Therefore, they are not considered POWs.

Navy Gives Relief Supplies, Returns North Boat

SK0312084793 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0805 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] An ROK Navy boat, which was patrolling in a maritime area close to the border with North Korea, found a North Korean vessel that was drifting due to bad weather and a fuel shortage and supplied necessary materials to this ship and sent it to back to North Korea.

The ROK Defense Ministry announced: At around 1230 today [0330 GMT 3 December], the Puksan naval escort ship, which was patrolling in a maritime area close to the border with North Korea, found the 10-tonne Wonsan fishing boat registered in North Korea near an area 32.5 miles east of Kojin and five miles south of the northern security line. A naval speed boat went to the scene on an emergency basis and found out the North Korean sailors were requesting relief supplies. So, out of humanitarianism, the Navy boat supplied rice, water, and 15 gallons of diesel fuel to the North Korean boat and sent it back to North Korea at around 1510 [0610 GMT].

The Defense Ministry also said: The North Korean boat left Wonsan on 25 November and caught flat fish in the high seas. The naval escort ship found this ship as it was drifting in the high seas due to bad weather and a fuel shortage. Because the North Korean fishing boat was unarmed and requested help, a naval patrol boat supplied relief materials to the North Korean ship.

The Defense Ministry also said that it immediately notified the Military Armistice Commission.

Article Speculates on Results of North Plenum

SK0312052393 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 2 Dec 93 p 2

[Article by reporter Yu Sung-u: "A Possibility of North Korea's Adherence to a Hardline Breakthrough In Nuclear Issue"]

[Text] Following the ROK-U.S. summit, North Korea has strengthened smear and slanderous propaganda of the South. However, its internal moves only appear calm. It is a credible observation that the 20th Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee, the highest policy-making organization in North Korea, was already held in November, thus attracting extraordinary attention from the people at home and abroad.

A relevant government official said on 30 November that there had been intelligence that the plenary meeting of the party Central Committee had recently been held and that indications supporting this intelligence has appeared in succession. He added that "the issues decided during this meeting will be revealed through reports to be delivered during the Sixth Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] on 9 December.

However, the official stated that, "there is no indication at present that an epoch-making decision was made regarding the inheritance of power including Kim Chong-il's assumption of the post of general secretary of the party." He cautiously observed that "since the surrounding situation pertaining to the nuclear issue is forcing North Korea to make only one choice, it is likely that decisions were already made on a comprehensive policy on the nuclear issue, on economic policy, and on reshuffling personnel and reorganizing the power structure.

Indications that the plenary meeting of the party Central Committee was held appeared in the middle of last month [November] on a relatively broad scale. One is the confirmation of the dismissal of Yun Ki-pok, secretary of the party Central Committee (education and science domain), and Pak Nam-ki, also secretary of the party Central Committee (economic planning domain), from their posts. Their dismissal was confirmed in the course of reporting the voting by high-ranking party and government officials' during the 21 November elections of deputies to provincial and municipal assemblies which were held throughout North Korea. The regulations of the Workers Party stipulate that the dismissal of a secretary of the party Central Committee is the characteristic right of the Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee. Thus, it is presumed that this meeting was already held and the party's core members may have been reshuffled. Their successors, however, have yet to be revealed.

On 15 November, North Korea held plenary meetings for the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea; Women's Union; League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, and Union of Agricultural Workers, which are representative outer organizations of the party. Thus, rallies have been held intensively by public organizations.

The seventh meeting of the Journalist Union was held on 17 November and a national meeting of activists of the 11 July red- banner tong [village] people's neighborhood units, which are basic organizational units, was held on 24 November. All these rallies unanimously stressed inheriting loyalty to Kim Chong-il over generations. Some government officials said that rather than holding these rallies before the plenary meeting to ripen the atmosphere for the session, they were held afterwards to disseminate important decisions made by the party at the plenary meeting.

The North Korean press recently used a longer title for Kim Chong-il than Kim Il-song. People observe that this also indicates some changes in Kim Chong-il's position.

People are paying keen attention to whether or not the plenary meeting of the party Central Committee was held because North Korea has taken a hardline stance on the nuclear issue and North-South relations. A relevant government official said that "North Korea's attitude since 23 November has caused alarm because it looks as though it is headed towards the edge of a cliff rather than a breakthrough in negotiations." In other words, North Korean authorities may make an important decision on refusing negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency and progress in North- South dialogue, which the ROK and the United States have set as preconditions for the next round of North Korea-U.S.

talks. Thus, it is highly likely that North Korea has decided on a hard-line breakthrough.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman's 29 November statement which warned of cancelling measures to withhold its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, is considered to be North Korea's first official reaction to the ROK-U.S. summit. The statement threatened that "the likelihood of war breaking out during the tenure of the incumbent South Korean ruler is becoming more realistic with each day." Regarding this, observers noted that although a negative response from North Korea was to be expected, this statement certainly goes beyond its ordinary tones.

President Interviewed on U.S. Trip, DPRK

SK0212130893 Seoul MBC Television Network in Korean 1105 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Interview with President Kim Yong-sam by MBC Television anchorman Om Ki-yong at Chongwadae, presidential office, on the occasion of MBC Television Network founding anniversary, on 30 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Om Ki-yong] I would like to congratulate you on your first successful overseas trip since you took office. Could you give us your impression of your trip?

[Kim Yong-sam] If it was not for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] summit, I would not have had the opportunity to make an overseas trip this year. The three main purposes of my visit was to participate in the APEC summit, hold ROK-U.S. summit talks in Washington, and meet with Koreans living in Los Angeles. Even though my visit was very short, I believe it was a very profitable visit and very helpful. I believe it was of great significance. [passage omitted]

[Om Ki-yong] As a result of holding direct talks with leaders of various leaders, who was the most impressive leader?

[Kim] I think it was President Clinton. There are various views of President Clinton, but I think he is a person who is qualified to be the President of the United States. He is very young, but he has accurate judgment and has driving force. He is also very prudent. Among the leaders, I had the most personal contact with President Clinton. When he visited the ROK, we became good friends and I talked with him a lot during the APEC summit. Moreover, I held summit talks with him in Washington, he hosted a banquet for me, and we jogged together. We had the opportunity to spend a considerable amount of time together. We became close personally and President Clinton also showed a friendly feeling toward me. I believe that the main reason for this is because of our people, who are praiseworthy. What I felt during the APEC summit and the ROK-U.S. summit was that our country's status has been enhanced significantly. Therefore, I believe that now is a very important time for us. I felt deeply that our people must not lose this opportunity. [passage omitted]

[Om Ki-yong] We have witnessed great changes in the past nine months. However, there have been trials and errors and small and large accidents. Some people say that only the president has taken the lead in reforms, while the cabinet has fallen behind. Do you have any intention of making a cabinet reshuffle?

[Kim] Even though the mass media have frequently reported on a cabinet reshuffle, I have not considered it. [passage omitted]

[Om Ki-yong] I will ask a question on the North Korean nuclear issue. During the previous ROK-U.S. summit talks, you declared that we would take the initiative in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. I think we have witnessed your new diplomacy in this declaration. Some people speculate it was decided at the summit talks that the deadline for North Korea's acceptance of nuclear inspections was the end of this year and that North Korea was notified of this deadline. Would you comment on this?

[Kim Yong-sam] No deadline was set. The nuclear issue is directly related to our existence. North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons would be a dreadful incident. We can easily imagine the countries that would possess nuclear weapons if North Korea possesses nuclear weapons, though I will not name names.

North Korea's nuclear weapons development must be prevented at all costs, I think. However, no deadline for resolving the North Korean nuclear issue has been set. If the nuclear issue is resolved, we are willing to give food assistance and other forms of economic assistance to North Korea. As I have repeatedly said, I have no intention of achieving reunification through absorption in the German style.

[Om Ki-yong] Are you optimistic about resolving the nuclear issue?

[Kim Yong-sam] This is an issue about which we can be neither optimistic nor pessimistic. We must pool all our wisdom to resolve this issue without fail. In particular, to resolve this issue, we must maintain strong security relations with the United States and make joint efforts. We are holding close consultations with China and Japan, as well. Such consultations will continue. [passage omitted]

U.S. Notifies Seoul of Strategic Export Changes

SK0212092593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0804 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—Seoul was notified Thursday that the United States is easing its export regulations on strategic materials, giving South Korea the same treatment as members of the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM).

The notification from the U.S. Embassy said that Washington would require only a general licence of COCOM trade instead of export permission for the sale of strategic materials to Korea.

This frees Korea from having to acquire re-export permission to sell restricted materials to a third country, officials said.

The change goes into effect late this month, or in early January at the latest, and is likely to invite other COCOM members to do the same, the officials predicted.

Seoul is hoping to join a new organization under discussion to replace COCOM following the end of cold war, and this recognition from the United States will help such efforts, they said.

Seoul, Beijing To Discuss Industrial Cooperation

SK0212084593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0608 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Beijing, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China will hold high-level talks in Beijing in mid-December to specify ways to expand bilateral industrial cooperation, a well-informed diplomatic source said Wednesday.

Kim Yong-tae, vice economic planning minister, will visit Beijing on Dec. 9-14, and meet with Ye Qing, vice minister of the State Planning Commission, for extensive and detailed discussions on the scope and method of expanding Sino-Korean industrial, technology, and capital cooperation.

The meeting of the two high-level economic policymakers comes after Presidents Kim Yong-sam and Jiang Zemin agreed on stronger bilateral industrial ties during summit talks in Seattle on Nov. 20.

Observers expect Korean automobile advancement into the vast Chinese market to be determined during the working-level talks.

Senior Beijing officials have agreed in principle to raise Sino- Korean industrial ties to a more advanced level by means such as permitting Korean automakers to build production lines in China and jointly manufacturing aircraft, the diplomatic source said.

He predicted that Kim and Ye would closely study Korea's access to the Chinese car market as well as electronics telecommunication advancement with the Korean-made TDX (time division exchange).

Kim is expected to meet with other senior officials of major economy-related government agencies and widely discuss practical economic cooperation.

Ministry on 'Espionage Supplies' Found on Island

SK0212033293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0230 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—Espionage supplies discovered on the shore of Kanghwa Island on Monday [29 November] were probably lost at least a year ago by a three-man North Korean Army team attempting to penetrate the Han River estuary, the Kimpo peninsula or Kanghwa Island, the Defense Ministry announced on Thursday.

Examination of the 219 items, including 170 rounds of M-16 rifle ammunition, a Japanese camera, canned food and North Korean-made emergency rations, showed that they must have been lost by two or three North Korean soldiers in an accident during reconnaissance penetration, the announcement said.

The soldiers are believed to have drowned or returned to North Korea, abandoning their penetration mission.

Discoloration on the surfaces of the ammunition and cans, and the state of decomposition of the medicines in a triple-sealed first-aid kit suggest that the penetration took place at least a year go, it said.

There is no evidence that the camera and food were ever used, suggesting that the penetrators either drowned or returned home without succeeding in their mission.

Premier Views G-7 Nations' Position in GATT

SK0312022993 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 3 Dec 93 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Hwang In-song said yesterday that the government will never accept the outcome of the Uruguay Round [UR] multilateral trade talks if only the positions of the G-7 countries are reflected.

"The government agrees with the basic position that the UR negotiations should be concluded by the Dec. 15 deadline. But it's wrong for developed nations to decide important international issues among themselves," Premier Hwang said over lunch with reporters.

Each member country of the General Agreement on Trade and Tarrifs (GATT) has its own unique situation, he added.

He strongly stressed that he has farming roots and tried his best to develop the rural areas when he was governor of Chollapuk-to and minister of agricultural affairs.

"Especially when I was agriculture minister from 1985-1987, I pushed forward with policies in the interest of farmers staking my position on them," he added.

Hwang reitered the government's strong opposition to opening the domestic rice market, saying, "The government position of resisting pressure to open the rice market has not changed and will never change for the sake of national interest."

He said that President Kim Yong-sam's address to the National Assembly last Monday also contained this position that since Korea has its own unique situation, it cannot open the rice market.

"The government is ready to give up other items in the Uruguay Round talks to block imports of foreign rice. To reflect this position, the mission that left for Geneva today comprises ranking officials of the financial and trade ministries," Hwang stressed.

He said what is still more worrisome than questioning the government's sincerity in the rice issue is the intentions of political parties and some dissident organizations to take advantage of the issue for their political interests.

"I would like to point out that it is not desirable for anyone to agitate or stimulate farmers to take advantage of them if he really loves them," he said.

As for some research institutions' assertion that the rice market has to be opened to restructure the agricultural structure, he said that though the portion of agricultural income in the gross national products (GNP) has been decreasing by years, artificial restructuring will cause considerable problems.

Agriculture Ministry Goes on 'Emergency Footing'

SK0312061893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0605 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry has gone on an emergency footing as the rice market opening issue is in the final stages of negotiations in the world trade talks in Geneva and Brussels, and as the government is already buying rice from farmers amid nationwide protests.

Officials should work with renewed determination to serve the nation because this is a critical time for Korean agriculture, Vice Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kim tae-soo told a staff meeting on Friday.

Under the emergency system, ministry officers will work overtime and Sundays.

Minister Pledges 'Efforts To Protect Rice'

SK0312062493 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 3 Dec 93 p 1

[By correspondent Pak Ui-chun from Brussels]

[Text] On 3 December, Ho Sin-haeng, minister of agriculture and fisheries, said, "There is no change in the government position that the rice market opening cannot be accepted. I will make utmost efforts to protect rice. I am resolved to make a concession to other fields, if necessary."

Such remarks by Minister Ho, who is leading a high-level negotiation delegation, which consisted of assistant ministers from five government ministries and offices, suggests readiness to expand the scale of opening the service and financial field in order to protect the rice markets.

Minister Ho made these remarks in an interview with a CHUNGANG ILBO reporter on the airplane on the way to Brussels for negotiations with the United States and the European Community. He said: At any rate, I will do my best to fulfill my basic mission. However, if any necessity arises for having to retreat one step from the attitude of "absolutely not acceptable," I will work out all possible steps in a bid to protect rice markets to the maximum.

Stating that the interpretation of the words "all possible concrete steps" is up to one's guess, Minister Ho declined to explain about the step in detail. However, he noted that "in the event that only our country is left, there is a possibility that our special position can be reflected." Stressing that we need not be too pessimistic about the result of negotiations, Minister Ho said that he will emphasize that Korea is a divided country and the importance of rice in overall industry is very great."

Minister Ho said: I will hold as many negotiations as possible as the time permits. When a specific negotiation card is necessary, I will contact my home country and receive a directive before going to negotiations.

Agriculture Minister To 'Settle' Talks With U.S.

SK0312025093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0234 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Brussels, Dec. 3 [as received] (YONHAP)—South Korean Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng said Thursday [3 December] he would settle the negotiations with the United States, whatever the outcome, as they are the last chance to wrap up the Uruguay Round [UR] of world trade talks.

"I'm neither optimistic nor pessimistic (about the negotiations between Korea and the United States) as the multilateral trade talks are experiencing considerable change in the final stage of negotiations," he said in an interview en route to Brussels.

Ho is heading a high-powered government mission to negotiate with the United States and other countries on rice market opening in the talks for a new world trade system under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

He said he alone would be responsible for the outcome of the negotiations.

Saying that there is no change in the government's opposition to rice market opening, he promised to do his best to push through and make a compromise in other sectors if it was necessary to keep the rice market closed to imports.

Asked if he had full power in the negotiations, he refused to answer directly but said, "you can expect the best result of negotiations when you have full information, a good idea and sufficient discussion or consultation."

He suggested he would discuss with mission members and even ask for new instructions from Seoul if there were difficulties in the negotiations.

Government Studies 'Partial' Rice Market Opening

SK0212081093 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 2 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] With the increasing possibility of our nation's isolation from the international community in the event our country does not accept the principle of tariffication pertaining to the opening of the rice market during the Uruguay Round [UR] negotiations, the government is known to have worked out a policy to open partially the rice market with more favorable conditions than Japan.

Yi Kyong-sik, deputy prime minister and minister of the Economic Planning Board [EPB], on 1 December met with President Kim Yong- sam in Chongwadae [presidential office] and recommended such a step to President Kim.

A high-ranking EPB official stated on 2 December that "Deputy Prime Minister Yi met with President Kim Yong-sam for nearly an hour a little after 1000 [0100 GMT] on 2 December, and reported on the government's measures on the rice issue."

It was learned that at this meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Yi explained the position that our government will make utmost efforts to defend the rice market to the end, although such a defense appears to be very difficult in view of progress of the UR negotiations.

Deputy Prime Minister Yi reported to the President that since Japan, Switzerland, and Canada have decided to accept tariffication and since the point of dispute between the United States and the EC in the agricultural production domain has been removed, there is a possibility that the principle on tariffication may be decided without our nation's position being considered. Therefore, Deputy Prime Minister Yi recommended to President Kim that study on the partial opening of the rice market is necessary.

He was also reported to have explained that the issue of opening the rice market should be handled by the External Cooperation Committee, which is in charge of external economic policies, instead of assigning this issue to a certain government office during the last stage. This means the External Cooperation Committee, which Deputy Prime Minister Yi himself heads, is resolved to settle the rice issue, which is now in the final stage.

Foreign Minister on Rice Market Decision Deadline

SK0312031493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—Final decisions on South Korean rice market opening must be made by Dec. 8, before multilateral negotiations begin, Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu said Friday [3 December].

A Korean delegation led by Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng is in Geneva for talks with GATT and U.S. officials.

"Whatever the results, the final version will be out by Dec. 7 or 8," he told reporters.

Ho is scheduled to meet with GATT Director-general Peter Sutherland on Friday, but the critical talks are with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy on Saturday and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on Dec. 7.

The foreign minister met earlier Thursday with U.S. Ambassador to Seoul James Laney and sought Washington's understanding and cooperation on the rice market issue at these talks.

Officials here have recently admitted that keeping the market completely closed may be difficult, stirring up lawmakers and farmers in waves of protests.

"We will try our best to have our position accepted by the Uruguay Round," Han told reporters. "If we can't, we have to try to reflect our next best interest.

Government To Announce Position on Rice Opening

SK0312083393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0824 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—The government said Friday [3 December] that it will announce its final position on the issue of rice market opening on Tuesday or Wednesday next week, after a high-powered Korean delegation winds up negotiations at General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) headquarters in Geneva.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Ho Sinhaeng leads the Seoul negotiating team and meets with U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy on Saturday and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor on Tuesday.

High-level Korea-U.S. negotiations are scheduled for Tuesday as well and by then the prospects for Korean rice market opening are expected to clear.

With multilateral negotiations for UR [Uruguay Round] conclusion by the Dec. 15 deadline likely to be in high gear from Tuesday, the government is reportedly planning to dispatch a working-level delegation of directors-general of concerned agencies to Geneva this weekend.

Han Sung-chu Briefs U.S. Envoy on Rice Market

SK0312001593 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu met with U.S. Ambassador to ROK James Laney at the Foreign Ministry today, and asked him to convey to the U.S. Government the ROK side's difficult position concerning the opening of the rice market.

Concerning this, Ambassador Laney said that he understands very well that it would be very difficult for the ROK side to open the rice market and that he will convey this to his country's government.

Foreign Minister Han said: Let us make mutual efforts so that the Uruguay Round negotiations are settled within the deadline by examining the positions of the ROK and the United States, not only in the agricultural production area, including rice, but also in all fields since the Uruguay Round negotiations are at the final stage.

Discusses Agricultural Delegation

SK0312002593 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 3 Dec 93 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu asked U.S. Ambassador to the ROK James Laney to come to the Foreign Ministry on 2 December. He explained the ROK position regarding the opening of the rice market, and requested that the United States gives us its utmost assistance during the upcoming ROK-U.S. negotiations in Geneva.

At this meeting, Minister Han explained the dispatch of the ROK Government's high-level negotiation delegation to the ROK-U.S. negotiations led by Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng, and requested "the United State's utmost cooperation since the United States is well aware of our situation in connection with the opening of the rice market," according to an official who was present at the meeting.

Report on U.S. 'Pressure' on Rice Market

SK0312052793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0520 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea's desperate efforts to remain self-sufficient in rice has been cold-shouldered by the United States, which instead has turned up the pressure for rice market liberalization.

Seoul officials are engaged in a series of negotiations with U.S. representatives in the headquarters of the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and trade (GATT), but have made little headway in getting their points across and instead are harder pressure from Washington, a senior government official said Friday.

To win an exception for Korea to tariffication without exception in the Uruguay Round trade negotiations, the officials have presented various offers and all got a cold response from their U.S. counterparts, who repeat that Korea must also play by the "no exceptions" rule.

A high-powered delegation led by Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Ho Sin-haeng has flown to Geneva amid the shaky prospects in a last-ditch effort to keep the Korean rice market closed.

Ho is scheduled to meet U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor early next week, but he is likely to meet U.S. agriculture Secretary Mike Espy before and learn Washington's clear position on Korea.

Observers say it is a vain effort to try persuading Kantor in Geneva as the U.S. chief negotiator is expected to clear away stumbling blocks in the UR agricultural sector and wind up the trade pact ready for signing by the make-or-break deadline early next week after negotiations with European Community trade commissioner Sir Leon Brittan.

At this point, Seoul can only hope that the United States and EC reach a small package deal that leaves the controversial issues for the next round to make the deadline so it can include rice and staples of Japan, Canada, Mexico, and Switzerland in the year-old first act draft.

Report on Kim Chong-pil Actions on Rice Issue

SK0112084593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0819 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Article by Cho Se-hyon: "Kim Chong-pil Declares Inevitability of Rice Market Opening, But Why?"]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 1 (YONHAP)—Alone against the growing force of opposition by farmers, civic groups and opposition parties, Kim Chong-pil, chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], has bravely stuck out his neck by taking the position that opening the Korean rice market to imports is inevitable.

Over the last several days, the rice market has become such a sensitive issue that no one in their right and sensible mind has dared to speak out in favor of the market opening.

And the administration keeps "mumbling" about the impossibility of sacrificing the nation's 6 million farmers by allowing rice imports.

Hemmed in between increasing foreign pressure to open the rice market and opposition by farmers and politicians from farm constituencies, the administration apparently tossed the hot potato into the lap of the ruling party chairman.

Or maybe, as some observers say, Kim stepped forward of his own accord to "carry the cross" for the administration and to become a "shield" for the president.

Whatever the reason, during a visit to Kwangju on Tuesday [30 November] night he took up the rice market issue in a meeting with local DLP officials.

After explaining the situation in Japan, Kim said: "We too have to restructure and modernize our agricultural system in which we do not have to produce rice in order to survive but to make money on it."

Commenting on criticism against any attempt to open the rice market to imports, Kim said, "you cannot solve any problem just by shouting (opposition).

"The best method (for survival) in this world is not making compromises but to adapt to new circumstances," Kim said.

The government, after working out thorough and complete measures to protect farmers, has to adapt to the tides of the world, Kim said.

The fact that Kim made such remarks at such a delicate moment is proof positive that the party chairman intends to take over the politically crippling job of shielding President Kim Yong-sam from attack on the rice market opening issue, analysts say.

With the Dec. 15 deadline for the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations approaching relentlessly, Kim may have volunteered for the thankless task of becoming the target of criticisms and resentment for the government and the party.

In fact, the main opposition Democratic Party, social groups and farmers have already launched their attack on Kim for making the remarks.

Some members of the ruling party, critical of their chairman, are saying things such as, "it was an irresponsible remark that ignores the farmers' right to subsistence."

Other members are upset by Kim's statement because they think it will backfire on the party's efforts to get the 1994 national budget bill through the National Assembly.

And still other DLP members—mostly lawmakers from cities and former senior government officials—welcomed what they regard as a courageous stand.

"It is about time we brought this (rice) issue out into the open and discussed it publicly for the best interests of the nation," said one.

But those in the final group are definitely in the minority, and Kim should know that.

Yet the reason for Kim to recognize the inevitability of rice market opening is probably that he wanted to show himself to be a politician of a higher level, who puts the best interests of the country first.

Kim could have also taken a calculated risk in order to advance his own political aims, which no one but himself knows at the moment.

Committee Against Opening Rice Market To Protest

SK0212090393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0807 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—Representatives of three opposition parties and 131 farmers' and civic organizations will congregate in the Federation of Korean Trade Unions headquarters in Yoido on Friday [3 December] to inaugurate a joint committee to lead nationwide protests against opening Korea's rice market.

Representatives of the Democratic Party, United People's Party [UPP] and New Korea Party [NKP] met with members of the groups in the National Assembly for preliminary discussions Thursday. Reps. Yi Kil-chae (DP), Cho Il-kyun (UPP) [as received] and Chang Kyong-u (NKP) and members of Kyongsilnyon (Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice) were among those present.

Leaders of the three parties and senior dissidents will be advisers to the committee, which will also have an executive committee led by Chungang University Prof. Kim Song-hun and a regional subcomittee that farming groups will take part in.

It will start with a petition drive to send a clear message on self-sufficency in rice and then a rally in Tongdaemun Stadium on Dec. 7 to launch a "no foreign rice" campaign.

Church Urges Overseas Cooperation on Rice Issue

SK0212092193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0830 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—The Korea National Council of Churches (KNCC) sent a letter to church councils in the United States, Japan, Taiwan, and Germany on Thursday to ask for their cooperation and warning that opening Korea's rice market would hurt farmers across the world.

The letter, signed by KNCC Secretary-General The Rev. Kwon Ho- kyong, explains that rice is a symbol of life for Koreans and this is why the issue of rice liberalization must be dealt with cautiously.

It says cooperation among churches in Japan, Taiwan, Germany and the United States is essential for the livelihood of farmers in each country.

Papers Discuss 'Inevitable' Rice Market Opening

SK0312061293

[Editorial Report] The following summarizes articles and editorials carried in ROK vernacular newspapers on 2 and 3 December on rice market liberalization.

The conservative CHOSON ILBO on page 3 on 2 December carries a 600-word article by reporter Sim Yang-sop reporting on an assertion by a legislator from a rural district. Unlike other rural district legislators who are fiercely opposed to the opening of the rice market, the article reports that legislator Chong Pil-kun of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) from Chinyang asserted that obstinately opposing the opening is not the resolution, and that "it is time for all of us to join forces in seeking ways to survive after the rice market is opened."

The article reports that in the discussion on 28 November with the leaders of the National League of Farm Associations, Chonnong, which accused Chong of treachery, legislator Chong said: "Income from the imports of agricultural products should be returned to farmers, and a fund for the investment in rural areas should be allocated separate from the existing fund for adjusting the rural structure."

The moderate TONG-A ILBO on page 1 on 2 December carries a 400-word article entitled "The DLP Will Not Announce a Resolution To Keep Rice". The article reports that the ruling party changed its policy and decided not to announce a resolution reflecting the recommendations made by DLP legislators from rural areas. The article notes that "the decision was made right after DLP Chairman Kim Chong-pil made the remarks on the inevitability of the rice market opening." The article reports that DLP Floor Leader Kim Yong-kwi said "we must calmly examine what is best for the nation's interest."

The moderate TONG-A ILBO on page 3 on 2 December carries an 800-word editorial entitled "Is There Any New Persuasive Theory?" Commenting on the departure of the high-level government mission which will visit Washington and Geneva for a final effort at persuasion, the editorial expects that the mission has a new theory advantageous to the ROK and will not waste time by repeating the ROK's special sentiment on rice. The editorial questions if it is satisfactory to sacrifice other fields in the rice market negotiations.

The editorial urges the mission to make the U.S. authorities, who rely on public opinion, fully aware of the elevating sentiment against the rice market opening in the ROK, and also warns of about harm to the ROK-U.S. relationship over the rice issue.

On the same page of the 2 December issue, TONG-A ILBO carries a 600-word interview with Kang Pong-kyun, the Economic Planning Board's (EPB) director of external economic coordination, on the background of sending the high-level government mission to the United States. The article reports that Kang seemed to have backed down a step, citing his remarks that "the hope for not opening the market remains unchanged." The article reports that Kang refrained from commenting on whether Agricultural Minister Ho has the authority to conduct negotiations on his own. When asked about whether the mission would only negotiate the rice issue, the article reports, Kang said that "it will be discussed comprehensively," and that the financial market issue would be discussed "if the other side raises the issue."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO on page 3 on 2 December carries an 800- word editorial entitled "Negotiation With Confidence Urged." Citing the remarks by DLP Representative Kim Chong-pil and EPB Minister Yi Kyong-sik on the inevitability of opening the rice market, the editorial questions why the government is so hasty in raising the inevitability which should have been asserted by the United States and the EC.

The editorial urges the government to refuse to open the rice market, "not forever, but until our agricultural economy attains competitiveness." Noting that the ROK has been cooperative and positive in negotiations on other bilateral trade issues, including intellectual property rights in the Uruguay Round (UR) talks or with the United States, the editorial requests deep consideration of the exceptional rice issue.

The moderate HANGUK ILBO on page 5 on 2 December carries an 800-word column entitled "Rice Market Opening and Internationalization" by columnist Chang Myong-su. Saying that people feel uneasy over the government's show of asserting no opening of the rice market, the column asks: Was "President Kim Yong-sam's commitment to keep the rice market only for his election campaigning?" The column says the government is frequently using the word "internationalization" as the pretext for the change of its position while it is the least internationalized in handling the rice issue, saying that no one could have mentioned the "inevitability" because of President Kim's strong commitment that "he will defend the rice market in his presidential capacity." The column says that the government's biggest mistake in the rice issue is that it lied and fooled the people.

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO on 2 December carries an 800-word editorial entitled "Is There a Central Axis in Rice Strategy?" The editorial says that the government should stop tapping people's opinion and take a firm strategy and work as a team even if it is painful and not popular. The editorial presents a role-sharing measure on the rice issue: "President Kim Yong-sam should clarify what kind of sacrifice we face and have people be prepared for the opening of the rice market, if it is inevitable. Then the prime minister should coordinate different opinions among the ministries and handle the rice issue with teamwork, not by Agricultural Minister Ho alone. The DLP leaders should also take their corresponding roles. Finally the opposition party should prepare an alternative measure."

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN on page 3 on 3 December carries a 600-word editorial titled "UR Mission, Do Your Best". The editorial says that the high-level government mission should not give the impression that the trip to Geneva is only a gesture to show its efforts to defend the rice market. The editorial also says the mission should not make the ROK an orphan in international trade by making unreasonable assertions. The editorial urges a blueprint to invest in rural areas as soon as possible, saying that the rural economy needs to be reformed even if it did not have such pressure for opening the rice market.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN on page 3 on 3 December carries an 800-word editorial entitled "Rice, Turning From 'No' to 'Inevitable'." The editorial says that the government has no strategy or policy, and charges that it misled the people in fear of losing popularity. The editorial also denounces the government for "raising the exchange of the financial market so early without calculating what would be the losses from handing over the bloodstream of the economy." The editorial deplores that the financial market card should have been cast in the very last stage of the negotiation.

Papers on Government, Opposition Views on Rice

SK0112061993

[Editorial Report] Seoul vernacular newspapers on 1 December carry editorials on the internal ROK conflict over the policy on opening the rice market.

The moderate CHOSON ILBO carries an 800-word editorial on page 3 entitled, "Reminding Us of the End of the Yi Dynasty." Recalling Korean ancestors who were divided over the pressure to open the country and eventually caused the collapse of the Yi Dynasty, the editorial warns that history is being repeated. The editorial urges a "Korean strategy" instead of the divided "Democratic Liberal Party strategy," "Democratic Party (DP) strategy", or "farmers' strategy," representing each individual group's interests. The editorial also urges all parties concerned to work together for "a better measure" or "a less harmful measure." Saying that the DP should not insist on an absolute refusal on any kind of opening only because it is not in the position to take the responsibility, the editorial questions the alternatives of DP Representative Yi Ki-taek. Calling the conflict "primitive," the editorial urges the government and the ruling party to appeal to the people with progressive strategies and post measures, and the opposition party to share the burden of managing the country instead of allying with interest groups or attempting to take political advantage of the situation.

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries an 800-word editorial on page 3 entitled, "Rice, Government, Opposition." The editorial says that the government is not being transparent in its policy on the rice market and is driving the situation to the brink. Noting that Japan has already defined the opening as inevitable, the editorial says that the 10-million signature campaign is not the solution to the situation, and urges the ruling and opposition parties to join forces to work out the best countermeasure in the nation's interest. The editorial says: "Although the opposition party's resolution to refuse the opening may help the government in negotiations with other countries, it is better for the party to present a practical alternative on which to concentrate." The urges the ruling and opposition parties to refrain from making the National Assembly defunct by running to extremes.

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries a 600-word article on page 3 entitled, "Final-stage Uruguay Round (UR) Negotiation and Our Choice." The editorial says that there is little chance that the rice market will remain closed and that if the ROK insists on refusing to open the market, it will automatically result in withdrawal from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Citing the protectionism of the EC and the North American Free Trade Agreement, the article says that ROK exports will face new obstacles if the government fails to accept the agreement made at the UR negotiation. Further calculating the economic losses, including unemployment if exports decline, the article says: "Rejecting the UR negotiation runs counter to the nation's interest." The editorial analyzes that the survival strategy is to derive the benefit of exceptional application while participating in the UR negotiations. Explaining that the international atmosphere is making it difficult for the ROK to insist on an absolute refusal, the editorial presents "a second best measure for a tariff grace period under the condition of minimum market access."

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries an 800-word article on page 3 entitled, "Rice Issue To Reflect Collective Opinion of People." Citing the movements opposing the opening of the rice market by various groups, including the DP, National Farmers Association (Chonnong), and Pannational Council for Safeguarding Our Rice, the editorial warns that the rice issue may cause a crisis for President Kim Yong-sam's regime. The editorial says that the government is leaking "partial opening" information to the media and sternly denying it "to give the people immunity from the opening of the rice market," and urges "the government to accept DP's proposal for a national referendum."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO carries an 600-word article on page 3 entitled, "Popularity and Responsibility of Rice Issue". The editorial says that the government authorities are making more efforts to be remembered as those who opposed opening the rice market than those who take responsible actions. The editorial stresses that "we are not dealing with one or two countries but all of our trading partner countries," and that the world no longer considers the ROK a developing country. The editorial says the authorities should not make irresponsible remarks to relieve people or to avoid criticism and urges the government to "openly discuss practical resolution of the issue including the compensation and support for farmers."

'Controversy' Follows Committee's Farm Bills

SK0212103493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0942 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—A heated controversy has developed over the anomalous passing of four agriculture-related bills through the National Assembly Agriculture and Fisheries Committee Thursday [2 December] afternoon.

The opposition Democratic Party [DP] promptly declared the passage void and null while the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] claimed nothing was wrong in it.

The four bills at issue were a government plan to purchase autumn crops, an amendment to the grains management law, an amendment to the special account for the structural improvement of rural areas, and an amendment to the grains securities law.

Around 2:30 p.m. Committee Chairman Chong Si-chae entered his committee's conference room through a door reserved for observers and, unable to reach his rostrum already occupied by opposition solons, declared a committee session open at the far-edge desk.

DP lawmakers were blocking the main door and seizing the rostrum in a bid to thwart any blitzkrieg passage of the controversial bills by the DLP without their consent.

As soon as he announced the opening, opposition solons near the chairman's rostrum, dashed to Chong and placed their palms on the chairman's mouth to keep him from making any further proceeding.

DLP solons, aided by their assistants, tried to part opposition legislators away from the chairman, plunging the conference room into the scene of shouting and physical clashes.

In the midst of the utter chaos, Chairman Chong hurriedly left the conference room through the same door in about three minutes.

DP solons asserted the passage should be nullified because all Chong managed to do was to declare the session open. He simply had no time to introduce the bills to the session much less putting it to a vote, they said.

Ruling party leaders, however, contended that the bills were passed duly as there was no defective point in the committee session.

Parties Agree To Change Security Agency's Name

SK0212035393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—The ruling and opposition parties have agreed to change the name of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP), and have tentatively chosen the National Intelligence Agency as its new title.

The National Assembly Special Committee for Political Legislation reached the agreement Wednesday following discussions over a proposal by the opposition Democratic Party [DP] to change the name.

As a result, if the National Assembly passes a revision to the national security law, the agency's name will be changed for the first time since 1980, when its name was changed from the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) to NSP.

The Democratic Party had originally demanded that the agency be called the "National Intelligence Ministry" and headed by a vice minister-level official if it was to be a government organization solely to collect information like its counterparts in the United States and Germany.

The DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] and DP still stand apart over an opposition demand to scrap the investigation right of intelligence officers. The ruling party wants the investigative power be reduced, not abolished.

Government Allows Banks to Open Branches Abroad

SK0212131593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1124 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—The Finance Ministry on Thursday tentatively authorized 16 Korean banks to establish seven branches and upgrade 11 representative's offices into branches abroad.

By area, the new overseas bank branches authorized include four in China, 10 in Southeast Asian countries and another four in New York and Tokyo.

Originally 18 banks asked for permission to set up a total of 41 branch offices abroad.

The Ministry, however, allowed only 18 of them with emphasis on those in international banking centers and those areas where Korean industries advance in force.

The 16 banks permitted to have more overseas branches included ten city banks, five special banks and one merchant banking corp.

Science Ministry To Restructure Institutes

SK0212044093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] The Science-Technology Ministry will develop 22 government-invested education and research institutes into topnotch specialized organizations by realigning their manpower, structures and financial scales to an optimum level.

This was contained in a mid-term specialization program of government-owned education and research institutes under the control of the ministry, which was announced by Minister Kim Si-chung yesterday.

According to Minister Kim, the ministry will carry out the overall specialization program by 1997 in its effort to maximize their R&D [research and development] activities.

In the announcement, Kim said that the ministry would increase support to institutes registering good achievements while slimming or closing down organizations showing poor marks.

On the background of the specialization project, he explained that the ministry decided to specialize the institutes in line with their characters and roles primarily aimed at helping the country to better cope with rapid change sin the science and technology environment.

In the 1970s and 1980s, he recalled, those government-financed R&D organizations had contributed much to the development of the nation's industry and the growth of its economy.

But he emphasized that the institutes should be changed fully enough to deal with specified R&D areas, pointing out that institutes in colleges and the business community have developed well enough to handle general areas.

He noted that the ministry would develop the government-held institutes into organizations which could play a pivotal role in development of the nation's science and technology.

The 22 institutes which will be affected in the specialization scheme include the Korea Research Institute of Standards & Science, Korea Institute of Technology, Korea Atomic Research Institute, Korea Institute of Energy Research, Korea Aerospace Research Institute, Genetic Engineering Research Center, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Korea Science Foundation and Kwangju Advanced Institute of Science and Technology.

They, according to the minister, will be specified into institutes covering the areas of public welfare-related technology, joint core-technology, future science, indigenous Korean technology, development of human resources and support to various R&D projects.

By the final year of the program, the manpower of the target institutes is expected to jump up numerically to 7,906 from 6,985 at the present time while the annual budget is likely to spiral up to 1,040 billion won (1.3 billion U.S. dollars) from 610.4 billion won (767 million dollars).

Yearly outlays for R&D projects will gyrate from 300.6 billion won (375 million dollars) at the present to 531.1 billion won (663 million dollars) in 1997.

Report on Samsumg Electronics Company Sales

SK0212035993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0150 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—Samsung Electronics Co. is likely to replace Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (Posco) as the manufacturing company with the largest turnover this year.

Posco is expected to fall to third place, behind Hyundai Motor Co., in the sector's sales rankings.

Samsung says that it expects its sales to increase 33 percent this year to 8.1 trillion won (10 billion U.S. dollars), thanks to a boom in its semiconductor business. Encouraged by this, it has set an ambitious sales goal of 10 trillion won for next year.

Hyundai says that its turnover will slightly exceed the 7 trillion-won goal set for this year on brisk sales of cars both at home and abroad in the latter half of the year. In the first half, production suffered from a labor dispute.

Posco predicts that it will increase its sales 12 percent to 6.93 trillion won, dropping behind Samsung and Hyundai. As the company completed most of its expansion programs this year, it can hardly increase tunrover from this year's level unless it develops high value-added (expensive) products.

In 1992, the top three were Posco (6.18 trillion won), Samsung (6.12 trillion won) and Hyundai (6.07 trillion won), a change from the 1991 rankings of Posco first (5.82 trillion won), Hyundai second (5.6 trillion won) and Samsung third (5.22 trillion won).

In net profits, however, Posco is expected to retain its top post with 270 billion won this year, followed by Samsung with 150 billion won and Hyundai with 50 billion won.

Report on Forecast of Semiconductor Exports

SK0212035693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0125 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—South Korean semiconductor exports are forecast to reach 11 billion U.S. dollars next year, becoming the first export item to top 10 billion dollars.

Semiconductor exports are projected at 7.8 billion dollars this year and manufacturers, encouraged by a worldwide boom in demand, have beefed up their production lines for state-of-the-art 16 megabyte dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips.

A 16 M-DRAM chip sells for 74 dollars, more than six times the 12 dollars of a 4 M-DRAM chip.

Samsung Electronics Co., whose memory chip exports look to be 3 billion dollars this year, says it is hopeful of reaching 4 billion dollars in 1994.

Timed with high demand for 16 M-DRAM chips, it will raise its monthly output to 1 million semiconductors by the year-end from the current 400,000.

Goldstar Electron Co. will reduce production of 4 M-DRAM chips and lower their price to concentrate on a 16 M-DRAM version, hoping to boost sales 33 percent to 1.2 billion dollars next year.

Hyundai Electronics Co. expects sales of finished goods to soar 50 percent to 1.2 billion dollars in 1994 from this year's 800 million dollars, and it will complete a 16 M-DRAM factory with a monthly capacity of 4 million chips by January.

It plans to cut shipments of unfinished products to 370 million dollars next year from this year's 560 million dollars, and it anticipates exports of unfinished and finished goods to grow to 1.57 billion dollars next year from 1.36 billion dollars.

Anam Industrial Co. saw orders surge late this year and predicts sales will soar 30 percent from this year's 2.3 billion dollars to 3 billion dollars in 1994.

The government will include modular components in the semiconductor sector next year, and its anticipated exports of 1 billion dollars will easily push semiconductor exports over 10 billion dollars in 1994.

Burma

Than Shwe Receives Thai Military Delegation

BK0112143593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] and commander in chief of the Defense Services, received a Thai military delegation led by General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary of the Thai National Security Council, at the Defense Ministry's Dagon House at 1000 this morning.

Present on the occasion were Lieutenant General Maung Aye, member of SLORC and deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services; Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of SLORC; Lt. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of SLORC; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; Colonel Kyaw Win, deputy director of the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence; Thura U Aung Htet, director general of the Protocol Department; Col. Thein Swe, Burmese military attache to Thailand; Mr. Wirasak Futrakun, ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar; and Thai Military Attache Colonel (Pracha Karasuri).

Delegation Departs Rangoon 2 Dec

BK0212152393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] The visiting Thai military delegation led by General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary of the Thai National Security Council, and the delegation accompanied by Colonel Kyaw Win, deputy director of the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence; Col. Thein Swe, Burmese military attache to Thailand; Wirasak Futrakun, ambassador of Thailand; and Thai Military Attache Colonel (Pracha Karasuri) left Yangon [Rangoon] by car and arrived at Pegu's Shwewartun hotel at 0900 today. The delegation inspected excavation works at King Bayinnaung's former palace. The delegation also visited the Shwethalyaung and Shwemawdaw pagodas and presented donations.

General Charan Kunlawanit and the Thai delegation left Yangon for Thailand at 1300 and were seen off at the airport by U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Colonel Thura Myint Maung, deputy commander of Yangon military command; Colonel Kyaw Win, deputy director of the directorate of defense services intelligence; Col. Thein Swe, Burmese military attache to Thailand; Wirasak Futrakun, ambassador of Thailand; and responsible personnel.

Mon Rebels Destroy Six Bridges in South

BK0212151393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Although the state government has extended an invitation to armed organizations in the jungles to come and work hand in hand for regional peace, tranquility, and development, some armed organizations have neglected that national duty and have been committing murder, destroying bridges by burning them, and throwing hand grenades to destroy regional peace and tranquility with the aim of killing and maiming innocent people. At about 0500 on 1 December, Mon armed insurgents burned and destroyed three wooden bridges between Hlwe Taung and Dawe camps and three wooden bridges between Alesakan and Yahu Village on the Ye-Tavoy Road in Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division. It has been learned that due to the destruction of the bridges, transportation by car between Ye and Tavoy has been disrupted.

Three ABSDF Students Surrender in South

BK0112145793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Members of armed organizations in the jungle who have come to realize their wrongdoings and after accepting the work being undertaken and the genuine goodwill of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, have been giving up their armed struggle and continuously surrendering with their arms and ammunition at various military camps.

On 8 November, Private Aung Naing, 21 years of age; Pvt. Zaw Aung, 21 years of age; and Pvt. Min Zaw, 22 years of age, from the ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] 203d Battalion surrendered together with one 9 mm pistol, two M-16 assault rifles, 50 rounds of M-16 ammunition, and one AK47 assault rifle with eight rounds of ammunition at the Theindaw Garrison.

SLORC To Build International Airport Near Pegu

BK0212083293 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Major General Soe Myint, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and commander of southern military command, accompanied by Colonel KyarNyo Chit Pe, deputy commander of No. 77 Light Infantry Division, Lieutenant Colonel Htein Win, secretary of Pegu division law and order restoration council, and staff officers inspected the selected site for the construction of the Hanthawaddy International Airport at Kyauktheingan in Pegu at 0820 on 30 November. He explained that everyone must try and contribute to make this a world standard international airport and gave necessary guidance to other matters.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Ministry Conveys Views on Keating Remarks

BK0112145393 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has given the views of the government and people of this country to Australia in conjunction with the recent remarks made by its Prime Minister Paul Keating against Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir. The ministry's views were relayed to Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia John Dauth. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today disclosed that Datuk Halim Ali, deputy chief of the Foreign Ministry [words indistinct], has contacted the Australian high commissioner by telephone and relayed the message. The Malaysian high commissioner in Canberra has also relayed a similar message to the Australian authorities.

In a related development, Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said it is now up to Paul Keating whether he wants to improve the strained bilateral relations caused by his remarks. Today's cabinet meeting also discussed Keating's offensive remarks and described them as improper for a leader of a country to insult the leader of a sovereign country like Malaysia. The cabinet also believes that Keating should apologize to Dr. Mahathir and try to improve the strained ties. If Keating is adamant, bilateral relations will face difficulties even though the severance of diplomatic relations can be ruled out.

Meanwhile, the Information Ministry will announce further measures against Australia. Its Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the measures constitute a follow-up to an earlier move to suspend information cooperation with Australia. Datuk Mohamed said the new measures will be announced when he visits the Langkawi radio station on Friday.

Foreign Minister on 'Strained' Ties

BK0312071693 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0649 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec.3 (OANA—BERNAMA)—Australia has to initiate steps to mend its relations with Malaysia because the present [word indistinct] in ties was caused by itself, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Friday. If Australia wanted to nurture good relations, it must make efforts towards it, he added.

Malaysia-Australia relations became strained following Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating's remarks that Dr. Mahathir Mohamed was recalcitrant for staying away from the recent Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting of heads of government called by the United States last month. The Australian media also criticized Malaysia and made personal attacks on Dr. Mahathir.

It is up to Australia itself to make the efforts if it wants relations to be mended, he told reporters who asked him about news reports that Keating had written to Dr. Mahathir to say he did not mean to offend him by describing him as recalcitrant.

Abdullah confirmed that the letter had been received and conveyed to Dr. Mahathir who is visiting Langkawi island.

Wisma Putra (Foreign Ministry) also received a statement from Canberra explaining Australia's position on the matter.

Release of Three Political Prisoners Confirmed

BK0212163693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1049 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 2 (AFP)—The Malaysian government Thursday confirmed the release of three political prisoners detained two years ago for allegedly plotting for the secession of resource-rich eastern state of Sabah.

Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayub said the government would soon decide whether to free Jeffrey Kitingan, the younger brother of Sabah chief minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan, accused of having masterminded the plot.

"Jeffrey cannot be released yet because of various technical reasons," Megat told reporters. Megat was confirming an AFP report on Wednesday on the release of former police officer Albanius Yudah and two others, Damit Undikai and Vincent Chung, who were among six detained between 1990 and 1991 under powerful security laws.

The three were freed on Monday but had been placed under temporary police supervision and restricted to certain localities, Megat said.

"With their release, only Jeffrey Kitingan is still in detention for the offence," Megat said.

Two others, Banabas Topin, an official of a Sabah-based cultural association, and former police officer Abdul Rahman Ahmad were freed in June.

"A decision on his release will be made soon after we have studied the report by the police and the investigations board," Megat said.

Up until his detention in May 1991, the 45-year-old Harvard-educated Kitingan was director of the state-run Sabah Foundation and chairman of the Sabah Institute for Development Studies, the think-tank of the state government ruled by the predominantly Christian Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

UK To Lend Equipment for UN Mission in Bosnia

BK0312095193 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0306 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 3 (OANA—BERNAMA)—Malaysia and Britain Thursday signed agreements for the loan of military equipment to the 1,500-strong Malaysian United Nations contingent in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The documents, signed by Defence Minister Mohamed Najib Razak and British High Commissioner Duncan Slater at the Defence Mnistry here, were a memorandum of understanding [MOU] between the two governments and commercial loan agreement between the Malaysian Government and British Aerospace (BAE) Defence Limited. The British Government, through BAE Defence, will supply a total of 94 vehicles of various types, including gun towers (tow), trucks, land rover 4x4 vehicles, and communications equipment. Under the MOU, the period of loan was for the duration of the Malaysian contingent's tour of duty with the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Although the initial spares requirement will be free for the period of between one and two years, maintenance and repairs cost would have to be borne by the Malaysian Government.

Training costs for the Malaysian personnel required to operate the equipment by British forces would be borne by BAE Defence.

Najib said the government was profoundly grateful for the assistance in view of the challenging weather, and geographical and military conditions prevailing in the Balkan state. He said the vehicles would certainly boost the operations of the Malaysian contingent, especially with the availability of support of the British logistical network in Bosnia, the largest operated by a single foreign mission in UNPROFOR.

The equipment loan frees approximately 30 million ringgit that would otherwise have to be spent to acquire the same equipment and vehicles. But more important than the financial implication, Najib said, was that the loan ensured the timely availablity of equipment for use by the troops in Bosnia.

Whether Malaysia purchases the equipment subsequently is very much dependent on the benefits derived from them, he added.

Najib said deploymemt of equipment and troops were progressing well with the full complement to be emplaced in Bosnia by the end of the month where they will be operating in four towns west of besieged Sarajevo.

Malaysia, a member of the Commonwealth, has traditional military ties with Britain and its armed forces was set up basically along British lines.

Appointment of Anwar as Deputy Premier Hailed

BK0312093593 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] December 1st was a significant day for Malaysia with the appointment of Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim as the new deputy prime minister. The announcement from the Prime Minister's Office came as no surprise as it was widely expected by most, if not all Malaysians.

Anwar had won the post of deputy president of UMNO [United Malays National Organization], the dominant party in the Barisan Nasional Coalition Government. Former deputy prime minister and deputy president of UMNO Ghafar Baba had resigned from his number two post in the government, and then withdrew from the contest for UMNO deputy president at the recent General Assembly paving the way for Anwar to take over the post uncontested.

And now with the appointment as the country's number two, Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed was keeping to the tradition of appointing the deputy president of UMNO as deputy prime minister. Malaysians in general—from his cabinet colleagues, states leaders, members of the business community and people from all walks of life—have hailed Dr. Mahathir's wise decision. The public have no doubt that Anwar is the best choice for the post left vacant by Ghafar. Anwar has proven himself as a capable and efficient leader with a clear vision.

This was amply shown by his efficient handling of the Finance Ministry and the the nation's economy which enabled Malaysia's economy to become one of the most dynamic among developing countries. Anwar's budget for 1994 presented in October was further proof of his concern for the interest and well-being of all races in Malaysia. One of the highlights of the budget was the reduction or abolition of duties on more than 500 products of a wide variety. Everyone has agreed that it is one of the best budgets ever presented with little burden on the paying public. Anwar, as announced by the prime minister, will retain his key portpolio as finance minister. He has already proven his proficiency in that post.

The new deputy prime minister has been in politics for a relatively short time of 11 years. He has earned the respect and esteem of people both at home and abroad. He has great admiration for his chief, from whom he has learned much during the course of his political carreer. Both Dr. Mahathir and his deputy have the same ambition of seeing that the goal of achieving fully developed nation status by the year 2020 comes true.

The combination of Mahathir and Anwar augurs well for the continuous growth of the country, would emphasis on manufacturing and high technology. And as a public relations consultant said of the new team, we see two visionaries pulling in one direction. So, onward Malaysia and Vision 2020.

Indonesia

Suharto Reminds Press of Responsibilities

BK0212103593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] President Suharto has reminded the national press to remain part of the developing nation. Because of this, the national press must act as a fighter, aware of its responsibility for the success of development. The head of state said this when he opened the 19th congress of the Indonesian Journalists Association [PWI] in Bandar Lampung this morning. He said one aspect of our development is the development of a democratic life. Accordingly, the national press should play a more conclusive role in developing democracy in the nation.

[Begin Suharto recording] We all must continue our efforts to fully operate democratic institutions in our nation. We must continue to develop the legal consciousness among our officials and citizens. We must better appreciate differences in opinion among us. We must further institutionalize democracy as part of our social, national, and political life. Thus, we all must enhance the democratization process in our national life as a manifestation of Pancasila. Last but not least, we must deepen our responsibility for the nation and its future. Actual, healthy, and responsible democracy needs wide and accurate information. This is the important task of the national press. But on the other hand, it should heed the impact of information it distributes. The national press should prevent itself from struggling for freedom for the sake of freedom itself. This will greatly harm the development of democracy itself and endanger the life of our nation as a whole. [end recording]

President Suharto also reminded the national press to strike a delicate balance between freedom and responsibility. Press freedom is not the objective, but it is a condition to the mission of a press working for development.

The 19th PWI congress will end on 5 December. PWI will elect its national leaders, advisers, and members of the PWI Honorary Council, and issue an agenda for the next five years.

Alatas Concerned at Fate of Israeli-PLO Accord

BK0212050993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has expressed his concern over development regarding the Israeli-PLO peace accord and his hope that the two sides, particularly Israel, will implement the accord they signed. Minister Ali Alatas said this at a function marking the 40th anniversary of the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta last night. According to the minister, obstacles to the Israeli-PLO peace accord stem from factions within the PLO and Israel. The factions are skeptical over the implementation of the accord, particularly regarding the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the Nonaligned Movement's Committee IX on Palestine has yet to take any action or make any decisions.

Meanwhile, Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia Lawrence T. Jensen said on the same occasion that Canada and Indonesia have maintained strong relations, although they do not have a long history of trade. According to Jensen, the two countries are developing their economies on the basis of their available natural resources, such as oil, natural gas, forests, and minerals.

Home Affairs Minister Opens PDI Congress

BK0212141493 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Home Affairs Minister Yogie S. Memet opened an extraordinary congress of the Indonesian Democratic Party [PDI] in Surabaya this afternoon as a follow-up to an earlier abortive congress in Medan. Surabaya-based correspondent Haryanto reports the opening of the extraordinary congress as follows:

[Begin recording] [Haryanto] In his welcoming address, Latif Pujosakti, acting chairman of the PDI Central Executive Council, said he is determined to turn the extraordinary congress into the first and last [word indistinct] in PDI history. Echoing similar sentiments, Home Afairs Minister Yogie S. Memet said the PDI is not just a national asset, but also something that the nation can depend upon. In his opening address, the minister urged party members to minimize suspicions among members as well as toward those outside the party.

[Memet] The PDI should indeed pay attention to this fact because compared to other sociopolitical organizations, the PDI is the smallest. If mutual suspicion continues, the party will be weakened. [sentence indistinct]

[Haryanto] The minister also stressed that the extraordinary congress should serve as a suitable opportunity for party members to forgive each other for events which took place earlier. As for the election of a new party chairman, the minister said such an election will be an interesting agenda, but it must be remembered that the party's program, especially on the eve of the country's second long-term development plan, should be given stronger emphasis. Commenting on the procedure to elect a new chairman, the minister said that even though the voting system is not discouraged, the consultative system aimed at reaching consensus should be adopted. Participants of the extraordinary congress are scheduled to listen to a welcoming speech by the Indonesian Armed Forces commander today and they will discuss congress procedures tomorrow. [end recording]

Laos

Prime Minister Leaves for PRC, DPRK Visits

BK0312101193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and a high-level party and state delegation left Vientiane by a special plane on the morning of 3 December for official friendship visits to the PRC and the DPRK. The visits are scheduled to take place from 3 to 11 December.

A ceremony to see the high-level party and state delegation off was officially held at the National Assembly hall in Vientiane capital at 0600 on 3 December. The ceremony was attended by Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and president of state; Comrade Maichantan Sengmani, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Control Committee of the Party Central Committee; and Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, Political Bureau member of the Party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly; along with many other comrade members of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, comrade members of the Party Central Committee, ministers, and deputy ministers. Also on hand to see Comrade Khamtai Siphandon and his delegation off were Comrade (Huang Munyew) and Comrade (Mak Kuantu), respectively charges d'affaires of the PRC and the DPRK to Laos, together with embassy staff of the two countries.

Comrade Khamtai Siphandon and the high-level party and state delegation are scheduled to visit the PRC from 3 to 7 December at the invitation of Comrade Li Peng, premier of the PRC. They will then proceed with the DPRK visit from 7 to 11 December at the invitation of Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the DPRK.

Thai, Lao Peace-Keeping Subcommittees Meet

BK0112144193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] On 30 November at Latsavong Hotel in Vientiane capital, a meeting was held between the Lao-Thai, and Thai-Lao general border peace-keeping cooperation subcommittees under the cochairmanship of Colonel Douangchai Phisit, deputy chief of the General Staff Department of the Lao People's Army and head of the Lao subcommittee; and Lieutenant General Oraphan Watthanawibun, director of the Military Tactical Directorate, chief of the Tactical Department of the Military Supreme Command, and head of the Thai subcommittee.

At the meeting, which was permeated with a good and frank atmosphere, the two sides discussed the agenda of the forthcoming meeting between the Lao-Thai, Thai-Lao general border peace-keeping cooperation committees. This meeting will be held in the Kingdom of Thailand on 16 December. At the same time, the two sides discussed the draft memorandum that will be adopted at the December meeting. They also agreed to hold the first Lao-Thai cooperation subcommittee meeting in the Kingdom of Thailand on a date to be agreed upon later.

Finance Ministry Delegation Returns From SRV

BK3011112993 Vientiane KPL in English 0659 GMT 30 Nov 93

[Text] Vientiane, November 30 (KPL)—A delegation of the Lao Ministry of Finance headed by its minister, Khamsai Souphanouvong, on November 28, arrived from Hanoi, ending its five-day working visit in Vietnam.

Between November 23-28, the delegation laid a wreath at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, called on Vo Van Kiet, Politburo member of the Central Committee [CC] of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Pham Van Khai, CPV CC Politburo member and chairman of the Vietnam-Laos Cooperation Commission.

On holding talks with a delegation of the Vietnam's Ministry of Finance, the two sides informed each other of activities, discussed the financial management, the management of salary mechanism, clearing procedures between the two countries, governments, the cooperation in taxes, in promotion of production and export produced in the countries and against border illegal trade and smuggling. [sentence as received] These will be studied by the technicians of both sides and will later be signed.

Leaders Lay Wreath, Visit Hospitals 1 Dec

BK0212145593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Yesterday, leaders of the party, state, and mass organizations headed by Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly, laid a wreath at the Statue of Unknown Combatants to commemorate the virtuous deeds of cadres and combatants, who sacrificed their lives for the nation and people, on the occasion of the 18th founding anniversary of the National Day.

Accompanying Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket in the wreath laying ceremony were Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, adviser to the party Central Committee; Comrade Maichantan Sengmani, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Party-State Control and Inspection Board of the party Central Committee; Comrade Thongsing Thammavong, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Organizational Board of the party

Central Committee; Comrade Khamphoui Keoboualapha, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Committee for Planning and Cooperation; the chairman of the Federation of Lao Womens' Unions Central Committee; the first secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union Central Committee; the chairman of the Federation of Lao Trade Unions Central Committee; and a number of people.

On the same morning, our party and state leaders also visited patients at many hospitals. For example, Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket led a party to visit patients at Hospital 103; Comrade Maichantan Sengmani at Mahosot Hospital; and Comrade Choummali Sai-gnason at the 15-bed hospital. During their visits to those hospitals, our party and state leaders also presented some gifts to the medical staff there.

Orders Conferred on Senior Party Leaders

BK0212143793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] On the evening of 1 December at the Ho Kham Presidential Palace, a ceremony was held to confer the National Gold Medal, the First Class Victory Medal, the First Class Freedom Medal, the French Resistance Medal, the U.S. Resistance Medal, and the Five Year Commemoration Medal on Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] and president of state, and Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC and deputy prime minister; and the National Gold Medal, the First Class Victory Medal, and the First Class Freedom Medal on Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, adviser to the LPRP CC.

Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the LPRP CC and prime minister, acting on behalf of the LPRP CC Political Bureau, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, and the government, conferred the esteemed national orders on the three comrades.

At the medal conferment ceremony, Comrade Khamtai Siphandon said in part: I am highly honored and extremly pleased to represent the LPRP CC Political Bureau, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, and the government to confer the esteemd national victory orders on Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, adviser to the LPRP CC; and Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC and deputy prime minister, who are all senior leaders of our party and state. The conferment of the victory and other meritorious orders by our party and state on the three comrades clearly displays our acknowledgement of the virtuous deeds and great achievements made by the three comrades for our country and people. Cadres, party members, combatants, multiethnic people, and people of all strata throughout the country know the three comrades very well as the first generation of patriots who have fused themselves very well with the revolutionary struggle of our people throughout the two prolonged periods of resistance full of difficulties.

Though having encountered nunmerous difficulties and risks to their lives, the three comrades have remained steadfast with their lofty ideals, persevering to overcome them with a rare sense of sacrifices for the growth, development, and final victory of the cause of the revolutionary struggle and the national independence, freedom, and the happiness of our people. The three comrades have made active contributions to the collective leadership of our party since the early years of the revolution, leading our people to fight and to win one victory after another until the complete victory.

After the establishment of the new regime, the three comrades have continued to contribute their wisdom, rich experience gained from their actual deeds, and physical strength, together with the LPRP CC and the LPRP CC Political Bureau, to lead the entire party and people to implement and gradually fulfill the two strategic tasks of national defense and construction and the cause of restructuring at present.

The virtuous deeds and stature of these comrades are always linked to the cause of our party, country, and people. The conferment of the victorious orders on Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit, and Comrade Phoun Sipaseut coincides with the 18th founding anniversary of the LPDR, the day in which the multiethnic Lao people throughout the country are joyously pleased to pay tribute to the historic victory of the Lao revolution. The conferment of the many victorious and meritorious orders on the occasion of this auspicious day of great signifiance clearly shows the gratitude, pride, and faith of our party, state, and people in the three comrades.

After the conferment of the victorious orders on the three comrades, speaking on behalf of the other two comrades, Comrade Phoumi Vongvichit delivered a speech expressing overwhelming gratification and pride for being conferred with the esteemed medals. He said: We are overwhelmingly happy and proud to have received the National Gold Medal, which is the highest order of our nation, and the other meritorious orders that were honorably conferred on us by the comrade party chairman. Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, Comrade Phoun Sipaseut, and I are sincerely moved at the words of profound substance uttered by the comrade party chairman regarding our contributions to the cause of our people's revolutionary struggle and the leadership of our party. We regard this gesture as not only an acknowledgement of our past activities but also a great encouragement to us. The conferment of the National Gold Medal and the other meritorious orders on us by the party, the National Assembly, and the government is an act of giving a lofty honor to us. The glorious honor bestowed upon us today belongs to the LPRP and all the comrades in our party leadership, for instance those comrades of the same generation who shared weal and woe and the same trench with us in the struggle for national independence, freedom, and the happiness of the people and who have assisted and trained us. This magnificent honor also belongs to the multiethnic Lao people throughout the country who have loved, looked after, supported, assisted, and trained us. To express our gratitude toward the party, the National Assembly, the government, and the multiethnic Lao people for having exalted our contributions by conferring the National Gold Medal and the other meritorious orders on us, we pledge to sacrifice our physical strength, wisdom, and lessons gained from our actual deeds to the cause of our party and country and to do everything to the best of our abilities to contribute to fulfilling the two strategic tasks and the party's allround restructuring. In particular, we will actively contribute to consolidating and increasing the party's leading role and to upgrading the party to become strong and steadfast in all respects so as to guide the country to victoriously march forward toward its goal.

Attending the ceremony were Comrade Souphanouvong, adviser to the LPRP CC; members of the LPRP CC Political Bureau; members of the LPRP CC; and many ministers and deputy ministers.

Thailand

Deputy Prime Minister Asks Russia To Pay Debt

BK0112024193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Dec 93 p 24

[By John Helmer in Moscow]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan has written to the Russian government to ask for repayment of US$16.4 million in overdue debt. The payment was agreed, Thai officials told the BUSINESS POST, during negotiations in Moscow in late September between Mr Amnuai and his Russian counterpart, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin.

Details of the repayment arrangements were then worked out by officials of the two governments and confirmed during the visit to Bangkok of a large Russian delegation at the end of October.

That group was headed by the deputy chairman of the State Committee for Military Industry, Gennadiy Yanpolskiy, and included representatives of the Russian ministries of Finance, Foreign Affairs and Foreign Economic Relations. They met with Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai, and it was agreed then that US$16.4 million would be paid by December 12.

The money represents the first tranche of the Bangkok government's 1991 rice loan to the former Soviet Union. The loan value is US$63 million. A second Thai rice loan, worth another US$200 million, was issued in 1992 and falls due next February. A promise by the Russians to make the first instalment payment of the overdue loan on May 20 was not implemented.

Thai officials say they are not willing to agree to Russian proposals for the sale of weapons systems, including aircraft, in repayment of the debt.

"We have made it clear many times that the Russian side should stop proposing what we don't want to buy", a senior Thai official told the BANGKOK POST. "They have our priority list, and they have not responded."

The official said that once the first cash payment is made, Bangkok is ready to consider barter in repayment of the balance of the debt, and has proposed iron and steel, fertilisers, diamonds, fish, petroleum products and non-ferrous metals including gold. Until the 1991 rice loan is cleared the official added, there is no realistic prospect for negotiating new Russian rice purchases for 1994.

Libyan UN Envoy Says Relations Improving

BK0212012393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Dec 93 p A4

[Text] Libya has assured Thailand that bilateral ties between the two countries have been improving, Foreign Ministry deputy spokesman Rawi Hongsapraphat said yesterday. According to Rawi, Libyan Ambassador to the United Nations 'Ali Ahmad al-Hudayri told Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan the situation between the two was better and that it wasn't Libya's intention to have any confrontation with Thailand.

Surin and al-Hudayri met on Monday at the United Nations' General Assembly in New York. The Libyan ambassador also told Surin that Tripoli has no intention of reducing or limiting the number of Thai workers, Rawi said. Libya wanted the two countries to cooperate more for the good of both and to upgrade bilateral ties.

Tension between Libya and Thailand rose early last month over Tripoli's threat to expel over 10,000 Thai workers. Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi reportedly announced on a television programme that the threat of a mass sacking of Thai workers was in retaliation for Bangkok allegedly siding with the United States which had accused Tripoli of attempting to build chemical weapons.

Libyan Ambassador to Malaysia Ahmed Ali Hanesh [name as published], who is responsible for Libyan affairs in Thailand, last week met with Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasathian and Foreign Ministry senior officials in Bangkok to clear up the problem. Hanesh said there was a misunderstanding in the reports on al-Qadhdhafi's announcement.

Deputy ministers from the ministries of Labour and Foreign Affairs will visit Tripoli next month to discuss the matter.

Border Meeting Held With Malaysia 29-30 Nov

BK0112061093 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Sarot Chawanawirat led a 12-member delegation to attend the second meeting of the committee to review border cooperation between Thailand and Malaysia at the Hilton Kuala Lumpur Hotel during 29-30 November 1993.

Thailand's information attache in Kuala Lumpur, Ladawan Bua-iam, reported that the meeting was chaired by Malaysia's Deputy Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dato Abdul Halim Ali. The committee came about after the fifth Thai-Malaysian joint commission in Langkawi, Malaysia. It first met in Bangkok in April.

The committee has a mandate to review border agreements in line with the rapidly changing situation concerning free movement of goods and peoples across the two countries' common border following the implementation of AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area] and the growth triangle.

Thailand proposed several measures to enhance border cooperation at local level including cooperation by the private sector and the media. Rules and procedures are to be standardized at the border to avoid misunderstanding and obstacles.

Minister, SRV Officials Discuss Rice Trade

BK0112145193 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] At the Commerce Ministry today, Minister Uthai Phimchaichon reported to newsmen about his meeting with the head of the SRV research center and the chairman of the technology transfer office. Uthai said Vietnam wanted to encourage Thai businessmen to invest in Vietnam by expanding their base of production into Vietnam on the basis of mutual interest. The commerce minister noted that Thailand is strong in the fishing industry. At the meeting, they also discussed finding ways to reduce competition between the two countries in rice trading. They suggested that the two countries should cooperate in trading and in price fixing in order to best benefit their farmers.

The commerce minister noted that Vietnam had learned a lesson concerning the quality of rice and therefore should look for more cooperation from Thailand. As for Thailand, he said the government already laid down several measures for next year in order to boost Thailand's competition in the rice market. It placed farmers' interests as a top priority. He said the measures will not leave Thailand at a disadvantage even though Vietnam might fail to cooperate with Thailand eventually.

Labor Activists Support New Bill on Unions

BK0212013393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] Labour activists yesterday gave their backing for a new bill approved in principle by the Cabinet Tuesday governing state enterprise unions and their relations with management.

The secretary-general of the State Enterprise Relations Confederation, Mit Charoenwan, said representatives of state enterprise employees had a say in the drafting of the bill and so the bill approved by the Cabinet was in general agreement with their will. He said it was good the bill empowered state enterprise unions to have a say in attempts to improve the performance of their enterprises.

The management now has the sole right to make decisions on the operation of state enterprises, he said, while employees can only fight for their welfare.

Mr Mit said he preferred the State Enterprise Union Act B.E. 2518 because it gave the right to stop work and stage strikes to employees of state enterprises not involved with infrastructure such as the Thailand Tobacco Monopoly, National Housing Authority and Krung Thai Bank. The new bill prohibits strikes by any state enterprise.

Communications Authority of Thailand Employees Association president Watthana Iambamrung said the bill clearly stated the establishment of state enterprise unions was to support national democracy under the King.

This aspect prevents any labour activities or movements which support dictatorship as in the past, he said.

Mr Watthana said the bill stresses the settlement of disputes by the tripartite State Enterprise Labour Relations Committee (comprising representatives from the Government, labour and management) to avert any violent protests in support of salary increases.

Disputes will be discussed with views from all sides put before the tripartite committee. He said the bill was better than the Act B.E. 2518 because it allowed the establishment of only one union to represent a state enterprise. The old Act allowing more than one union resulted in disunity among employees and this hindered an enterprise's performance when different groups had to leave the workplace to attend union meetings.

The Bangkok Mass Transit Authority had as many as 29 unions in the past, he said. A single union could be checked through the election of executive members and it could also be folded if the number of union members fell below the minimum 25 per cent of enterprise staff, he said. A monopoly could be countered even though a state enterprise has only one union.

The president of the Metropolitan Waterworks Labour Association, Ekkachai Ekhankramon welcomed Cabinet approval of the new State Enterprise Labour Relations Bill. But he said it was difficult to comment on the bill just yet as he had not seen the details.

"If there is any change in the draft from what was discussed between state enterprise labour leaders and Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut, it is impossible for me to say whether state enterprise employees will be happy with it," said Mr Ekkachai.

The state enterprise workers preferred to see two major changes in the bill. The first would allow labour unions to call extraordinary meetings on work days and the second would allow them to join private labour councils or federations.

Mr Ekkachai said he thought the US Government had played a major role in pressing the Thai Government to amend the State Enterprise Labour Relations Act.

Government Establishes Three New Provinces

BK0112092293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The royal act on the establishment of new provinces becomes effective today, creating the three new provinces of Sa Kaeo, Nong Bualamphu, and Amnat Charoen. The interior permanent secretary noted that the three provinces are ready to serve their residents. In mid-November, the Interior Ministry assigned the governors of the three new provinces to make necessary preparations for the royal act to be put into effect. The various ministries already assigned officials to the new provinces. Preparations have been made for several months to build a permanent provincial seat for every new province.

According to Ari Wongaraya, the interior permanent secretary, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai will preside over today's function to officially establish Sa Kaeo Province, while Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut will preside over the function for Nong Bualamphu Province, and Deputy Interior Minister Suthat Ngoenmuen will chair the function for Amnat Charoen Province.

Warning Issued on Pirated Tapes Sold by Mail

BK0212141993 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] First Lieutenant Suchai Chaowisit, director general of the Intellectual Property Department, disclosed that a method had been found being used by traders to sell pirated videotapes, music cassettes, and compact discs to customers. Traders display empty covers of the tapes in front of their stores. When customers want to buy pirated tapes, they can pay for the goods and leave their names and addresses with the shopowners. The pirated videotapes, music cassettes, and compact discs will then be mailed to the customers afterward. This method is aimed at avoiding searches and arrests by authorities. The Intellectual Property Department and other concerned agencies have been closely following the practice of those violators. The director general of the Intellectual Property Department appeals to the public not to buy those pirated goods. To achieve success for the government's policy of suppression against copyright violations, the public is urged to cooperate with the authorities and not to support those traders. The buyers of pirated videotapes, music cassettes, and compact discs will risk losing both the tapes and their money if found with the pirated goods, because authorities will confiscate them for use as evidences in legal process to be taken against copyright violators.

Police Raid Nets Unlicensed Videotapes

BK0212135293 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Acting on information about a store in Khlong Toei, Bangkok violating videotape copyright laws, police officials raided the store Max Video and arrested Phani Daengnaeoto, the shop ower. About 7,000 unlicensed videotapes were seized. The store is located at 18/10 Sukhumwit 23, Khlong Tan District. The store owner confessed to the copyright violation charges.

Vietnam

Cuban Education Delegation Visits

BK0212062993 Hanoi VNA in English 0620 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 2—A delegation of the Ministry of Education of Cuba led by its Deputy Minister Manuel Alfaro Hernandez paid a ten-day working visit to Vietnam ended today.

While here, the delegation met with Tran Hong Quan, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and minister of education and training, and other leading officials of the ministry. It called at some colleges, schools, the Institute of Educational Research, the Hanoi Education and Training Service, and the Hoan Kiem Job Training Centre.

During those meetings, the two sides informed each other of the situation of education in each country and possibilities of cooperation between the two ministries. The Cuban side highly appreciated Vietnam's efforts and experience in popularizing the education, raising the people's cultural standard in the process of shifting the economy into market-oriented one along socialist orientation.

The Cuban delegation also called at the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union. On behalf of Cuban teachers and students, Deputy Minister Manuel Alfaro Hernandez expressed his thanks to the Union for launching the campaign to collect notebooks and pencils for Cuban students.

Doan Khue Sends Greetings to Cuban Counterpart

BK0312094493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Letter by Minister of National Defense Doan Khue to General Raul Castro Ruz, minister of Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, on 37th founding anniversary of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Comrade Minister,

On the 37th founding anniversary of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, on behalf of all cadres and soldiers of the Vietnam People's Army, I would like to send you and the entire cadres and soldiers of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces my best wishes.

On this occasion, I would like to reaffirm to you our unswerving solidarity and support to the national construction and protection of the fraternal Cuban people and Revolutionary Armed Forces.

I wish you good health, more achievements in your noble duty, and happiness in your life. I send you my best regards.

Australian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

BK0212150193 Hanoi VNA in English 1440 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 2—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans today concluded his official visit to Vietnam from November 29.

Minister G. Evans was received by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

He held talks in Hanoi with his Vietnamese counterpart, Nguyen Manh Cam. They informed each other of the situation in their respective countries and exchanged views on international and regional issues of common concern, and on cooperative relation between Vietnam and Australia.

Speaking to the Australian foreign minister, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam highly valued the developing cooperation between the two countries. They expressed their hope for further development of that relation in the interests of the two peoples and for peace, stability and development in the region and the world as a whole. They also pointed out that stemming from its open foreign policy Vietnam would be ready to talk with delegations sent by foreign countries, Australia included, to Vietnam on every issue of common concern on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

For his part, Minister G. Evans expressed his pleasure at the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the renovation process. He assured the Vietnamese leaders of Australian Government's continued cooperation with Vietnam and expressed wishes to contribute to Vietnam's national construction. He said he supported Vietnam's cooperation with ASEAN countries and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Minister G. Evans also visited Hue City, Danang, the central region, and Ho Chi Minh City. Wherever he came, he was given warm welcome by the local authorities and population.

Japan Grants Aid To Upgrade Medical Equipment

BK0312062993 Hanoi VNA in English 0619 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 3—The Japanese Government has decided to grant 10 million USD [U.S. dollars] as aid for a project to upgrade medical equipment at nine medical institutions in Hanoi in the 1993-94 fiscal year.

The agreement to this effect was signed on Nov. 26 by Dr. Ngo Van Hop, head of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Public Health, and Dr. Minoru Akiyama who led a six-member team of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to Vietnam to make plans for the project.

Beneficiaries to Japan's aid this time include the Bach Mai Hospital, the Institute of Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology, the Eye Institute, the Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases, the Medical College, the Gynaecology-Obstetrics Hospital, the Hai Ba Trung Hospital, the Hospital of Dong Anh District and the Emergency Station 15.

Boat People Allege Severe Treatment in Japan

OW0212060593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0543 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi, Dec. 2 KYODO—Vietnamese boat people were treated extremely severely in a camp in southern Japan, an official newspaper reported Thursday [2 December]. The newspaper LAO DONG was quoting Vu Dinh Son, 35, in the northern border province of Quang Ninh, about 140 kilometers east of Hanoi, who recently returned home from the refugee reception center in Omura, Nagasaki Prefecture.

Son was detained for nearly two years together with more than 400 others in the Omura camp, built of rock in 1946 and surrounded by an electric fence and a system of surveillance cameras, the daily said.

Daily meals in the camp consisted of one bowl of rice, a small portion of vegetable and a spoonful of soya curd, and more than half of the detainees suffered from edema due to malnutrition and weakening, Son said. He said nearly 40 detainees knocked their heads against iron bars in the camp and more than 10 others cut their abdomens in the harakiri style on November 19, 1991, to protest the conditions.

This took place again in May 1992, witnessed by many foreign reporters, Son said.

Son and his wife, Le Bich Ngan, who is also a returnee from Japan, are now running a cafeteria in the busy border town of Mong Cai in the province, LAO DONG reported.

Foreign observers in Hanoi said the report was probably published in an education campaign aimed at discouraging people from fleeing abroad.

Japanese sources said 17 Vietnamese boat people came to Japan last year. The first half of this year saw 71 such arrivals in Japan but the number swelled to 426 in July and August. On November 20, Premier Vo Van Kiet instructed Defense and Interior Ministries and Haiphong and Quang Ninh Province to intensify patrols so as to prevent similar departures.

NGO Representative Offices Regulation Issued

BK0312064593 Hanoi VNA in English 0632 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 3—The government prime minister has decided to promulgate the regulation on the establishment of representative offices, liaison offices of foreign non-governmental organizations (NGO) in Vietnam.

The 15-article regulation says that NGO representative and liaison offices of those NGOs which have not yet established their representative offices are entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in Article 41 of the Ordinance on Privileges and Immunities for Foreign Diplomatic Missions in Vietnam. Those offices have to abide by provisions of Vietnam's laws and NGOs may establish their liaison offices in localities where their projects are underway, the regulation stipulates.

The prime minister also decided to set up a working board on NGOs which will guide and supervise the establishment and activities of NGO representative and liaison offices.

Nationalities Council Meets Before Assembly

BK0212124793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] The National Assembly's Nationalities Council held a conference in Hanoi on 2 December in anticipation of the upcoming Ninth National Assembly's fourth session.

During the two-day conference, the council will appraise its 1993 work, map out tasks for 1994, and discuss the draft report to be presented to the National Assembly at the upcoming session on the socioeconomic situation in the mountainous regions and areas inhabited by ethnic minorities.

The conference will also discuss and contribute ideas to the draft law on nationalities.

The Nationalities Council will hear the Ministry of Finance's representative report on the implementation of the 1993 budget and the 1994 budget estimate for tasks related to the mountainous regions and ethnic minorities.

News Conference Previews Assembly Session

BK0312060393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] The Office of the National Assembly [ONA] held an international news conference on 2 December to discuss the Ninth National Assembly's fourth session, scheduled to open on 6 December. The conference was attended by a large number of local and foreign correspondents.

After giving a briefing on the purposes and agenda of the Ninth National Assembly's fourth session, ONA Director Comrade Vu Mao answered questions from foreign correspondents. Answering a REUTERS correspondent's question on the draft law on business bankruptcy, Comrade Vu Mao said: Vietnam is changing its economic system, and many businesses have been unable to adjust to the new system.

Group Makes Anticorruption Inspection in Hanoi

BK0112070793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] A National Assembly Standing Committee delegation led by Phung Van Tuu, National Assembly vice chairman, made a visit to inspect the anticorruption and antismugglng tasks in Hanoi to prepare for the Ninth National Assembly's fourth session.

The delegation had working sessions with the people's council standing committee, people's committee, people's court, justice office, people's organ of control, customs office, and public security service. The delegation also made on-the-spot inspection visits to Noi Bai international airport and the new detention center at (Cau Dien). Through the visits, the delegation recognized that Hanoi has quickly grabbed hold of the resolutions, directives, and decisions made by the party and state on anticorruption and antismuggling policy; has worked out concrete programs and measures to fight corruption and smuggling for 1993; and has guided ancillary sectors at various levels to implement these programs.

Measures Urged To Stop Spread of Superstition

BK0312074093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0732 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 3 (AFP)—A small Roman Catholic church in southern Minh Hai province has been attracting thousands of "pilgrims" who have come during the past three months to drink or sprinkle themselves with its consecrated water, reputed to have "magical" medicinal properties.

The "pilgrimages" began after rumours began circulating in the village of Tac Say that the soul of a priest, Truong Buu Diep, who died in 1946, had returned to advise parishioners in their sleep that the church's "holy water" could cure many sorts of illnesses.

The story spread through neighbouring provinces as far as Ho Chi Minh City, the newspaper LAO DONG said, and caused a rush of pilgrims for the "miracle" water. These included members of ethnic minorities living in plateau country in central Vietnam who even sold their livestock—buffalo and pigs—to make the journey.

According to the LAO DONG article, believers argue the slightest droplet of the water, even on the ground, is enough to effect a cure. Others take water to the priest's grave and conduct religious rituals there before sprinkling themselves with the water.

Local authorities tried in vain to dissuade the pilgrims from drinking what they called "polluted water" and suggested it might cause illness.

Meanwhile, the phenomenon has degenerated into a roaring commercial operation with profiteers making large sums of money out of the credulity of the pilgrims' needs for transport, accommodation, food—and bottles of water.

LAO DONG called on local officials to take appropriate "measures in education and propaganda" so that the public "better understands the negative effects" of those who believed in the superstition.

Those who hawking rumours of a miracle cure should be punished, it said.

Australian, Papuan Foreign Ministers Review Ties

BK0312055093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Australia and Papua New Guinea [PNG] had admitted strains in relations during the past year, but have reaffirmed their commitment to close ties. The commitment was given by the foreign ministers of the two countries at the opening of a joint ministerial forum in the PNG highlands town of Mount Hagen.

PNG Foreign Minister John Kaputin says the issues to be discussed at the forum meant it would probably be the most important since his country became independent from Australia in 1975. Both Mr. Kaputin, and his Australian counterpart, Gareth Evans, acknowledged difficulties in bilateral relations during 1993.

A statement read to the forum on behalf of the PNG prime minister, Paias Wingti, also acknowledged bilateral strains, but added that Port Moresby appreciated the relationship and wanted it to remain close. The forum is expected to be dominated by the agreement under which Australia provides about $300 million a year in aid to Port Moresby.

There is opposition in PNG to the agreement under which Australia is to replace direct budget aid with funding for specific projects.

Australia

Malaysian Ties 'Harmed' by Keating Remarks

BK0112070693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Australia's special trade representative, John Button, says the country's trade relationship with Malaysia has been harmed by the prime minister's criticism of his Malaysian counterpart. Mr. Keating dubbed Dr. Mahathir recalcitrant for not attending an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation [APEC] leaders meeting in Seattle.

Mr. Button, who retired from Parliament earlier this year after holding the industry portfolio, said he wished that Mr. Keating had not made the remark, but he did not know if Mr. Keating should apologize.

Mr. Button said in a radio interview, next week's visit to Malaysia by Defense Minister Robert Ray and Trade Minister Peter Cook should be used to improve relations with Malaysia.

Government Denies Malaysia Lodged Protest

BK0212062693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] Australia's Foreign Affairs Department has denied reports from Kuala Lumpur claiming that Malaysia has launched an official protest over Prime Minister Keating's reference to his Malaysian counterpart, Dr. Mahathir, as recalcitrant.

In a report quoting Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Malaysia's BERNAMA News Agency said the government has protested over what it called Mr. Keating's derogatory remarks. But Trevor Watson says that in the strict diplomatic definition of the term no formal protest appears to have been delivered.

[Begin Watson recording] There is no doubt that the Malaysian Government has made its feelings known to Australia's High Commissioner in Kuala Lupur, John Dauth. A Malaysian Foreign Ministry official briefed Mr. Dauth yesterday on cabinet discussions on the row. But the Australian sources say that a formal protest was not launched during the briefing. The Malaysian Cabinet decided not to downgrade diplomatic relations; but at least three ministers have now talked of the impact of the rift on trade between the two countries. The Ministry of Energy, Telecommunication, and Post is already looking for an alternative supplier of coal and power generating equipment worth more than $30 million. [end recording]

Delegation to PRC Sees Improved Business Links

BK0212121493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0304 GMT 2 Dec 93

[Text] Perth, Australia, Dec 2 (AFP)—Business links between China and Western Australia have been further boosted by a current trade mission from Australia's biggest state to Zhejiang Province, leading Australian businessman Simon Lee said Thursday.

In a prepared statement released in Shanghai and reported here, Lee said the Western Australian Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Zhejiang Federation of Industry and Commerce had signed a co-operative agreement during the 18-member delegation's 17-day visit, which ends Tuesday.

The agreement covered areas such as the promotion and exchange of business information and trade delegations between Western Australia and Zhejiang, the exchange of technical trade data and a commitment to sponsor business and investment seminars.

The vice-governor of Zhejiang, Long An-Ding, had confirmed the Zhejiang Government would hold a trade and investment exhibition in Perth, the Western Australian capital, next year, Lee said.

He said he saw the delegation as an important step in forging closer business links between the state and China in agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.

The Zhejiang agreement comes in the wake of a three-year cooperation deal signed in Beijing last weekend between the Western Australian Chinese Chamber of Commerce and China's biggest trade promotion group, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

Fiji

Dissident MP's Defeat Budget; Elections Set

BK0112070093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 1 Dec 93

[Text] The ruling Fijian Political Party has told its dissident parliamentarians to explain their actions after they caused the calling of a snap election by helping defeat the country's annual budget. They have been given letters demanding an explanation of their actions. Six party members voted against the budget and one abstained.

The group included leadership aspirant Josvata Kamikamica and sacked former government whip (Ilai Kuli), as well as two others dropped from the ministry yesterday.

Mr. Kamikamica, a former deputy prime minister, maintains he opposed the budget because he was concerned about a deficit blowout and other issues.

The Fijian Political Party caucus met today to discuss planning for new elections scheduled for February. Fiji is facing the prospect of the dissident group moving to establish a new political force in Fiji, where all voting is along racial lines.

New Zealand

Minister Says Sale of State Assets To Resume

BK0312025893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0244 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Auckland, Dec 3 (AFP)—New Zealand will resume its controversial privatisation programme, Finance Minister Bill Birch told the weekly NATIONAL BUSINESS REVIEW (NBR) Friday.

He said there could soon be sales of state-owned public works operators, public land and the Government Computing Service (GCS). Some state-owned power stations may also go on auction block.

Privatisation has been controversial ever since former finance minister Roger Douglas began the programme in the mid-1980s. The state's telecommunications, rail, road transport, international airline, forests, banking and postal services have since been targetted.

During the election campaign last month, Prime Minister Jim Bolger pledged he would not sell the Electricity Corporation (ECNZ), but Birch told NBR he might sell some power stations. "The commitment not to sell (ECNZ) doesn't lock ECNZ into a state of inertia," he was quoted as saying. "It may from time to time, at the edges of its activities, want to make changes. (ECNZ) is perfectly competent to approach the government if that is the case. "The government would need to consider that on its merits."

Birch said cabinet would probably consider there was no more role for it in Workscorp—the state's public works arm—and Landcorp, which holds state farming properties.

Government Releases Fiscal Deficit Figures

BK0312025693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0216 GMT 3 Dec 93

[Text] Wellington, Dec 3 (AFP)—New Zealand's Government had a deficit of 616 million New Zealand dollars (336 million U.S. dollars) for the first four months of fiscal 1993-94, Treasury data showed.

The defecit was 287 million dollars below forecast but conclusions about the full-year deficit, to end next June, could not yet be drawn, Deputy Treasury Secretary Howard Fancy said.

Results for the four months ended October 31 were broadly in line with the 1993-94 forecasts, he said.

Tonga

Satellite Space Deal Completed With Indonesia

BK0212071093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0308 GMT 2 Dec 93

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Auckland, Dec 2 (AFP)—A threatened star wars between Tonga and Indonesia has ended with the two agreeing to share a geostationary equatorial satellite slot both had parked satellites in and to unite on another slot.

Although Tonga had international law on its side an Indonesian company, PT. Pacifik Satelit Nusantara (PSN), last year moved a satellite into the slot before Tonga's own satellite, an ex-Soviet Union Gorizot, arrived in July at the 134 degrees east slot over the western Pacific.

Six years ago Tonga claimed what it said was its full 16 slot entitlement of equatorial geostationary orbits despite what the powerful International Telecommunications Satellite Consortium (Intelsat) said was a gentlemen's agreement among members that nations only take up slots they actually need.

Tonga came into the business through a retired Intelsat executive, Mats Nilson, who set up Friendly Islands Satellite Communications (Tongasat), which now manages the slots.

In negotiations with the International Frequency Registration Board Tongasat reached a deal to use six slots over Asia.

Tongasat's operation is based on licensing U.S. satellite financing companies Rimsat of Indiana and Unicom of Colorado who use Russian satellites in Tonga's slots.

Nilson told AFP from Hong Kong Wednesday that a new Gorizont launched on November 18 was nearly in position at Tonga's second slot, 130 degrees east, also near the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya.

The dispute became heated earlier this year with Tonga Prime Minister Baron Vaea, citing "economic harm" caused by Jakarta, demanding Indonesia move its satellite while Indonesia told Tonga it would be "technically viable and economically wise" if Tonga moved its satellite.

"The agreement entails that on the 134 east (slot) where there was a dispute the (Indonesian) satellite can operate until the end of its useful life, maximum until October 1995," he said.

"In the meantime the Tongasat licensee satellite and replacement satellites in that position will be able to operate without any interference in that position."

He said the Gorizont satellite occupied two thirds of the C-band the Indonesian one could operate in the rest of the band.

The problem for the future is that the newer satellites due to go into the slot occupy all the band with Rimsat due to put an Express satellite their next October.

Nilson said both sides met in Geneva last month and sorted out the dispute as well as inking a deal for a Tongasat licensee and PSN to together operate new or used satellites in another orbital position between 130 and 144 degress where Tongasat has four registered slots and Indonesia tried to register three.

He said both sides has reached a position of complete cooperation.

"We are now basically partners, we are one step now towards the dream I always had in the beginning of Tongasat ... the participation of several administrations in the Asia-Pacific area to jointly operate satellites in these positions."

Nilson said now guarantees of non-interference had been reached, Rimsat was finding it easier to sign up customers, including new video customers.

The Tongasat-PSN standoff had attracted worldwide interest because it was the first time disputes over satellite slots had reached the point of two satellites sharing the same space in a region seriously short of transponders.

Other groups in the region which have claims over the same slots are Hong Kong's AsiaSat and Thailand's Chinnawat, the American PanAmSat and Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Intelsat and Malaysia's Binariang Sdn. Bhd and Intelsat.